FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 104 *30 May 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Inspects Joint Forces in Lebanon [VOP]	A 1	1/A6
Baghdad VOP Reports 'Arafat in Damascus for Talks	A 1	1/A6
'Arafat Returns to Beirut, Sees University President [VOP]	A 1	1/A6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

Shaykh Yamani Supports Balanced Oil Policy	C 1	1/A7
Foreign Minister Discusses Saudi Position [AS-SIYASAH 24 May]	C 1	1/A7
Information Minister Grants Interview to Kuwaiti Paper	C 4	1/A10
Prince Fahd Receives PLO Central Committee Members	C 5	1/A11
FRG Research Minister Leaves Saudi Arabia for Home	C 5	1/A11

EGYPT

As-Sadat Speaks to Alexandria University Staff	D 1	1/A12
Dialog With Staff	D 8	1/B5
As-Sadat Says Israeli Initiative Awaited	D 18	1/C1
War Minister Speaks of Future Role of Missiles	D 19	1/C2
Haykal, Journalists Banned From Traveling Abroad	D 19	1/C2
Names of 10 Journalists Will Be Sent to Prosecutor	D 19	1/C2
Public Prosecutor Comments	D 19	1/C2
Interrogation To Begin	D 20	1/C3
High Treason Charge Considered	D 21	1/C4
Israeli Journalists' Visit to Egypt Canceled	D 21	1/C4
List Compiled of Persons Banned From Politics	D 21	1/C4
People Imprisoned for Advocating Communism	D 22	1/C5
Security Departments Prepare Reports on Leftists	D 22	1/C5
Persons From 'Friendly Country' Detained	D 22	1/C5
As-Sadat To Return Tax Law to People's Assembly	D 22	1/C5

IRAQ

'Middle East Reporter': Iraq Executes 14 Communists	E 1	1/C6
Anti-Ba'thist Activities, Executions Reported	E 1	1/C6
ATH-THAWRAH Warns Front Groups: Stay Away From Army	E 1	1/C6
Information Minister Interviewed in Khartoum	E 2	1/C7
Armed Forces Chief of Staff Returns From Sudan	E 3	1/C8
Finance Minister Leaves for New York Bank Meetings	E 3	1/C8
Peace Council Member Departs for UNGA Session	E 3	1/C8

JORDAN

Husayn Outlines Jordan's Policy in AL-AQSA Interview F 1 1/C9
Amman Reports Husayn's Statement to CHICAGO TRIBUNE F 1 1/C9
Statement Issued on Prince Hasan's Visit to Poland F 2 1/C10
Returns to Amman F 2 1/C10

LEBANON

MENA Cites Palestinian on Recent PLO-Lebanese Meeting G 1 1/C11
Fatah, Government Reach 'Tacit' Agreement G 1 1/C11
Palestinian Command To Remove Armed Elements G 2 1/C12
'Arafat Forms Special Force to Coordinate With UNIFIL G 3 1/C13
UNIFIL Spokesman Discusses Situation in South G 3 1/C13
MENA: Cease-Fire in South Honored G 4 1/C14

SYRIA

Damascus Radio Reports Syrian-Eritrean Talks H 1 1/D1
LA LIBERATION: Ba'thists, Communists, Nasirites Arrested H 1 1/D1
Iraqi 'Threats' Against Politics in Iraqi Armed Forces Scored H 2 1/D2
Prime Minister Reads Government Policy Statement H 2 1/D2
Air, Ground Formations Carry Out Tactical Exercise H 6 1/D6
Writers, Journalists Condemn As-Sadat's Measures H 7 1/D7
Cuba Signs Trade Exchange Protocol in Damascus H 7 1/D7
Delegation Leaves H 7 1/D7
Assembly's Arab, Foreign Affairs Committee Meets H 8 1/D8
Official Makes Statement on Nonalined Conference H 8 1/D8
Prime Minister Confers With Italian Trade Minister H 8 1/D8

ISRAEL

Begin Attends Yizhaq Navon's Swearing-In Ceremony N 1 1/D9
MA'ARIV: Jerusalem Sources Confirm Hassan Letter [28 May] N 1 1/D9
YEDI'OT AHARONOT: Jerusalem Knows Nothing of Hassan Letter [28 May] N 2 1/D10
Sharon Interviewed on Negotiations, Political Issues N 2 1/D10
Commentator Assesses Chances of Negotiations Breakthrough [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 May] N 6 1/D14
Content of Egyptian Reply Discussed, Criticized [MA'ARIV 26 May] N 8 1/E2

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Deputy Prime Minister Karmal Receives PRC Ambassador S 1 1/E6
Government Reportedly Permits Formation of Trade Unions S 1 1/E6
Regulations on Imported Goods Issued to Merchants S 1 1/E6
Taraki Addresses Tribal Representatives S 1 1/E6
Taraki Receives, Addresses People's Envoys S 2 1/E7

INDIA

ISI Cites Indo-Hungarian Economic Protocol [cross-reference] S 3 1/E8
Desai Warns Congress-I Not To Resort to Violence S 3 1/E8

NEPAL

Nepal, PRC Sign Boundary Accord in Katmandu 28 May S 3 1/E8

PAKISTAN

Asghar Khan Demands Definite Date for Elections S 3 1/E8
Government Allows Republication of Pro-Bhutto Paper S 4 1/E9
Delhi Reports Tikka Khan To Be Tried by Military Court S 4 1/E9

Item 856-B-6 PrEx 7.10:FBIS-MEA-78-104

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606

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'ARAFAT INSPECTS JOINT FORCES IN LEBANON

JN281708Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday visited the joint forces' positions at Mount Hermon, Al-'Urqub and Al-Biqa', where he inspected the fighters and met with the revolution military cadres. He briefed the commanders of the military units on the political situation and its developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. He also stressed that the Palestinian revolution is continuing on the road of repulsing the plots which are aimed against the march and struggle of the revolution.

BAGHDAD VOP REPORTS 'ARAFAT IN DAMASCUS FOR TALKS

JN282025Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in the Syrian capital today at the head of a delegation from the PLO leadership on a visit to the Syrian regime. The length of the visit is not known.

Reports describe 'Arafat's visit as a working one, during which he will hold talks with Syrian officials on the situation in southern Lebanon and the PLO's leadership's relationship with the Lebanese Government.

Reports say that 'Arafat's visit is in preparation for the visit which Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis will pay to Damascus on Wednesday.

It is noteworthy that 'Arafat met with Sarkis in Beirut yesterday and discussed the PLO leadership's relationship with the Lebanese Government. Following the meeting, 'Arafat said he gave Sarkis guarantees relating to the restriction of the activities of fighters in the south, to prevent them from fighting the Zionist enemy who usurped the territory of southern Lebanon.

'ARAFAT RETURNS TO BEIRUT, SEES UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

JN291725Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar met this morning with Muhammad Kamil Layla, president of the Arab University of Beirut. During the meeting, which lasted about an hour and a half, a discussion was held on the affairs of the university.

Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Beirut from Damascus yesterday. Before his departure from Damascus yesterday, he attended the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Workers' Federation and delivered a speech on the latest developments in the situation and the current political conditions through which the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in particular, and the Arab region in general, are passing.

SAUDI ARABIA

SHAYKH YAMANI SUPPORTS BALANCED OIL POLICY

LD281020Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 May 78 LD

[Text] Jidda, 28 May, SNA--Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has confirmed that in its oil policy the kingdom is working to achieve two goals: devoting local resources to local development; and enabling the international community to overcome the acute problems hindering its progress.

His excellency also confirmed the kindgom's belief in a balanced oil policy is based on taking into account all international circumstances and variables. In an interview with the Japanese radio published by AL-BILAD today, his excellency said that the age in which states thought about and drew up their policies in isolation from those circumstances and variables has passed. He added that the pursuit of flexible policies capable of matching local and international interests is more logical and stable. His excellency said that the kingdom, with its huge international influence, cannot ignore the facts and cannot make decisions harmful to world interests.

His excellency said that the problems of prices and volume of production are no longer different in view of the clear objectives pursued by the kingdom, an objective which events have consistently proved sound. Turning to OPEC, he said the kingdom's first objective has been and will continue to be to maintain OPEC's existence and strength, and that this can be achieved by further coordination among OPEC members.

His excellency said that the next OPEC meeting, to be held in Geneva, might see great changes, and he expressed the hope that these changes will consolidate the previous stages in which the organization has been able to consolidate its steadfastness in the face of urgent problems.

Answering a question about the effect on oil supplies to Japan of the kingdom's decision to take ownership of ARAMCO installations, his excellency said: our relations with big states are growing in mutual trust and complete understanding of the requirements of joint cooperation, and Japan can rely on the kingdom for all its oil requirements.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SAUDI POSITION

LD261840Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 May 78 p 18 LD

[Interview granted by Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal to Iranian newspaper ETTELAAT publisher Farhad Musaudi, reprinted in AS-SIYASAH--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] China always declares that it supports the countries of the Third World. Last week, during Somali President Siad Barre's visit to Peking, high-level Chinese officials strongly criticized the Soviet Union's policy in various parts of the world, particularly its interference in the Horn of Africa. If we take these Chinese initiatives into consideration, does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have any intention, sooner or later, of recognizing Communist China and establishing normal diplomatic relations with it?

[Answer] As you know, Saudi Arabia has no official relations with Communist China, but we have relations with Taiwan. These relations constitute an obstacle between us and Communist China. We hope that Communist China and Taiwan will solve the problems between them. With regard to our future relations with Communist China, I have no magic power or any other means of predicting the future. Understandably, I cannot speculate on what is going to happen tomorrow.

[Question] What do you say about China's support for the Third World, and particularly for the Horn of Africa?

[Answer] We did not play any role in removing Somalia from the communist camp. I have no idea whether Somalia was with the communist camp or not. Somalia's relationship with the Soviet Union is a matter that concerns Somalia alone. They both determined this policy and shouldered the responsibility for it. The Somalis are fully responsible for any new development in these relations. As for the Horn of Africa and the interference of others in it, this is a matter that concerns the countries of the area and of the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia. The problem has not been ignored, and it can be solved through negotiations held in the area itself. External interference complicates matters and leads to expanding the sphere of the crisis. If the source of interference is a major power, then the crisis becomes acute. We hope that Somalia and Ethiopia will solve their problems. What worries us is foreign interference, particularly since such interference has taken a military character. Those who interfere are not concealing their interference; they speak publicly about it. We believe that the danger lies in the fact that military interference has become a common thing. Imagine if the major powers interfered in this manner in every area where there is a crisis. What then would be the fate of the world? What would the result be if every country in the world wanted to benefit from support by major countries willing to send forces to other countries? This does not worry Saudi Arabia alone but all the countries of the area. We hope that such a policy will be opposed by the countries of the area and by the whole world. It was thought that the pattern of colonialist countries sending military forces to other countries and exploiting such forces as a means of pressure in order to enforce the will and conditions of colonialism had gone for good. But unfortunately it appears that the era of colonialism is not over yet. All that has happened is that the source of colonialism has changed from the West to the East.

I believe that what worries President Siad Barre is that foreign intervention has become a matter of fact. Unfortunately, we see similar intervention in other parts of the world. We share President Barre's concern. President Siad Barre wonders why the world accepts foreign intervention.

As for the question of Eritrea, it is a different matter that concerns the United Nations. The problem was previously put before the General Assembly, which issued resolutions in this regard. We hope that this matter will be solved peacefully through negotiations. Here again, if others interfere the problem will be complicated and the crisis will become wider.

Regarding the possibility of Ethiopia attacking Somalia, the latter, as you know, is a member of the Arab League, and just as it has responsibilities toward the Arab countries, the Arab countries too have responsibilities toward it. I can see no justification for an attack on Somalia, particularly since it has expressly and openly declared its willingness to settle disputes peacefully. Intensive efforts are currently being made within the OAU which we hope will lead to a solution of the crisis.

However, I hope that what the press has published about the possibility of an Ethiopian attack on Somalia is no more than speculation. Otherwise, the problem will become very complex.

[Question] Among the matters that directly concern the Persian Gulf area is the question of its security. The importance of insuring such security transcends the area and has become an international issue. There are different views put forth by the countries of the Gulf littoral. What is your opinion on this matter and in what areas do your views agree or disagree with those of Iran?

[Answer] I do not think there is room to talk about a similiarity or dissimilarity of views between Iran and the other countries of the area, especially Saudi Arabia. I believe that if we examine the matter carefully and very closely we come to a single conclusion; the basic fact is that this area is not only the concern of the littoral countries but of the entire world because it is a sensitive and strategic area for world trade. Therefore, we hope the area will remain far removed from the conflicts of major powers and an area of peace. Under the circumstances, I believe that the countries of the area must cooperate among themselves to maintain security. If there is any problem between these countries, it must be solved. Efforts must be made to keep the area free from the game of major powers, for the only aim of these powers is to find a foothold for themselves in strategic areas. I do not think that there is any danger threatening us unless the countries of the area create a problem or allow some foreign force to intervene in the area.

The best example of this is the relationship between Iran and Iraq. The two countries solved their problems even before the question of cooperation between the countries of the area was discussed. We have been able to sit at the same table and discuss problems of mutual interest. I believe that we have been able to find ways of reaching mutual understanding and correct solutions for the problems of the area.

But if we have not yet taken practical steps to insure the security of the area, the reason is that we have not yet agreed on the nature of the danger. That is, the countries of the area have not agreed as to the source of the danger threatening them.

[Question] Israel has declared its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242. Do you believe that Israel will implement this resolution?

[Answer] Israel is playing with words. It says that it accepts Resolution 242, but it is not ready to discuss the question of the West Bank and Gaza. Is this not playing with words? Israel says it is prepared to discuss matters concerning only Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, and at the same time Jordan says the West Bank and Gaza concern the Palestinians. Israel has proved that it is not prepared to evacuate the territories it occupies. What is interesting is that it does not hide this desire. The reason Israel has ostensibly put forward some peace proposals is that it is well aware that the whole world opposes its intransigence. The fact is that the peoples of the world are aware of Israel's real attitude, so in order to avoid the pressure of the new situation it sometimes resorts to playing with words.

[Question] What is your opinion of the U.S. role in recent developments in the Middle East? Has the United States played its role as it should?

[Answer] One cannot judge the efforts of another country as positive or negative. We look optimistically upon the efforts of any major power to insure peace. We hope that U.S. efforts in this regard will continue, because we believe that it has a basic role to play in the matter. The least that the United States can do is to use its influence to make Israel pursue a peaceful policy. It is no secret that the Arab countries are searching for peace and are exploiting any positive initiative to achieve this objective. But the issue is the simultaneous desire of both sides for peace. If Israel does not want peace the present opportunity will be lost. Such opportunities are not repeated. Therefore, the United States must benefit from its position in order to play a constructive role. In any case, the United States must continue and even step up its efforts.

[Question] One of the current issues in the area is the variety of views being expressed regarding President as-Sadat's peace initiative. Do you believe that there is still a chance for the initiative to succeed? Is it better to continue on this road or to stop at this point and turn toward uniting Arab ranks, and especially conciliation between Egypt and Syria?

[Answer] The Arab and Islamic countries in general love peace. No one wants war. We believe that peace in the Middle East will be achieved when the problem of the Palestinians and the occupied territories is solved. The Palestinians have been evicted from their lands and are now dispersed in the world without a home. These people must be given back their rights. The whole world agrees on the need to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and to solve the problem of the occupied territories. This is the path to peace on which the whole world, except Israel, agrees. The obstacle to peace is Israel's attitude. In the meantime, the Arab countries, particularly Egypt and As-Sadat, have advanced on the path of peace more than they should.

[Question] Israel claims that its continued occupation of Arab territories insures its security.

[Answer] This is not true. Modern weapons have a range of 120 to 130 kilometers. Land does not give it security. The United States and the Soviet Union are separated by thousands of miles, and yet neither side is reassured about security. The only way to insure Israeli security is for Israel to live with the Arab countries in peace. The only way to achieve this is to solve the Palestinian problem and not to import more military equipment. The Arab countries will then be ready to give the necessary guarantees for Israeli security.

INFORMATION MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI PAPER

JN2910562 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0911 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 29 May--Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, Saudi Minister of Information, has stated that his country hopes that the accusations published in the Algerian press regarding the role Saudi Arabia has played in the Arab world and in international politics are just press interpretations and do not constitute the Algerian Government's viewpoint.

In an exclusive interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH published today, the Saudi information minister added that it will be regrettable if the opposite proves true. He added that the era of sensationalism has come to an end and that the duty of the press is to work for the unity of the Arabs. He said that his country is familiar with all that has been published in the Algerian press on the subject in addition to all the recent statements.

He stressed that Saudi foreign policy is well-known and is based on uniting the Arabs, smoothing out their differences and supporting the issues of progress and those designed to raise the standards of the Arab citizen. The Saudi Government is convinced that everything it has done has been in accordance with the government's policy of supporting Arab and Islamic issues, because this policy stems from Saudi Arabia's position and its Arab role.

Regarding His Majesty King Khalid's visit to France which begins today, the Saudi information minister stressed that this visit comes within the framework of Saudi Arabia's policy of cultivating friends and strengthening ties with them. He stated that during the visit, the Saudi ministers of foreign affairs and defense will hold talks with their French counterparts on cooperation and the stimulation of such cooperation in various spheres. The results of their discussions will then be submitted to the French-Saudi summit meeting. He described French-Saudi relations as good and concluded that the two countries have identical viewpoints on a number of international political issues.

PRINCE FAHD RECEIVES PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LD291726Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 78 LD

[Summary] Riyadh, 29 May--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, regent and crown prince, this afternoon received Khalid al-Hasan and Abu Mazin, members of the PLO Central Committee, who arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

FRG RESEARCH MINISTER LEAVES SAUDI ARABIA FOR HOME

LD261030Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Jidda--Dr Volker Hauff, FRG minister of research and technology, left Jidda today for home at the end of his 4-day visit to the Kingdom.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS TO ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY STAFF

NC281530Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah, 28 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat said during his meeting with the Alexandria University board members and staff that [passage indistint].

As an example of the doubt campaigns the president mentioned allegations by some people about linking Sinai with Egypt by (?tunnels) and their claim that this is unnecessary. The president asked: Is it democratic practice to cast doubt on the achievements and to go back to the old methods and the old logic?

The meeting took place at the president's retreat in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah. It was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Education Minister Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, Alexandria University President Dr 'Ali Rida al-Hunaydi, and Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im Kharbush, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria University Staff Club.

At the beginning of the meeting Education Minister Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi made a speech. Other speeches were made by the university president, Dr al-Hunaydi, and the university staff club chairman, Dr Kharbush.

President Anwar as-Sadat then spoke. The following is the text of his speech:

In the name of God, I am really as happy as ever to be meeting with you. It has been our custom to get together whenever there is something to be discussed or explained. This has always been the case with Alexandria University, of which we are always proud.

It is a cause of pride for the 23 July Revolution that the Alexandria University staff was the first to express support for it on the morning of 23 July. It was then called Faruq University. King Faruq was in Alexandria at the time. Nevertheless, the first cable we received on the morning of 23 July was from Alexandria University. This is why Alexandria University has and will continue to have a special phase as far as the July Revolution is concerned and as far as the reconstruction, which began with the 23 July Revolution and which we are engaged in now, is concerned.

We also met last year. His excellency the minister of education spoke last year too, as did the university director. At that time there was the question of 18 and 19 January, which I spoke about. I remember, as you remember with me, that Alexandria University Professor Dr 'Ismat Zayn ad-Din expressed a view, and we ended up with me passing this view over to you for study. Then I received the distinguished research on democratic socialism which I had asked you to prepare. Afterward, all the universities and then the higher council for universities sent me splendid and excellent studies. I am delighted to tell you today that we have summed up all of the studies, and Dr Sufi Abu Talib, at my request, has drawn up the outlines for research work, which, God willing, will soon be issued on democratic socialism. You have all contributed to this in your capacity as the vanguards of this people who educate the generations. This research work will be issued and we will discuss it again. It will serve as a reference for all those who would want to carry out research work or to make additions to it. As for out meeting today, I had actually received a telegram from the faculty club of Alexandria University.

That was before the referendum was held. Speaking to you with utmost frankness, I tell you that I will absolutely not accept the language of that telegram. If our goal is to have all of us participate together and express our views on the matters concerning our society, then this is something which I ask for and insist on. This is proved by the fact that when I called on you, saying we should entrench democratic socialism, you, the universities and the universities council took the initiative. As I have told you, we have now ended up with a full study on this. This study will be issued, and the work done by the universities will go down in our history. However, if the goal is to have the universities or the faculty clubs become guardians over the country, then I say no. The telegram asked me to postpone the referendum. You heard me at the People's Assembly when I went there to speak on 14 May, People's Assembly Day, of the democratic course. You are the men of knowledge, and you are the people who are primarily concerned with scientific research. As the club chairman has rightly said, you know that the 23 July Revolution has made giant achievements. It also has negative aspects, exactly as he has said. I agree with this statement, and there is nothing in this statement that I disagree with. This is why the corrective movement was carried out on 15 May 1971.

You, as men involved in scientific academic research, know that this did not happen to any revolution prior to the 23 July Revolution. The correction of the course did not take place through a counterrevolution outside the 23 July Revolution. The correction of the course did not take place because of a setback which befell the revolution and which was followed by a power struggle as happened, for example, to the French Revolution. Following the success of the French Revolution, a republic was established, then an empire, then a republic and so on.

The 23 July Revolution was carried out. I had the honor of being the one to announce over the radio the outbreak of the revolution on the morning of 23 July 1952. After 25 whole years, a quarter of a century, and following the corrective revolution, God willed that I would also be the one to declare our return to constitutional legality instead of revolutionary legality. Some years before that, namely in May 1971, I closed the detention camps forever. No one can deny this. In May 1971 I closed the detention camps forever.

The introduction of the permanent constitution was not a gift from any one. The people discussed the constitution from the one end of the country in Aswan to the other end in Alexandria. The constitution was introduced. It specified the rights and duties.

All extraordinary measures were abolished--no custodianship, no sequestration and no detentions. Every citizen became secure and safe and protected by the supremacy of the law. All this started in 1971, before I started the battle of liberation in 1973.

Allow me to go back a little in time with you, to the period between 1971 and 1973. During that period there was a spreading in the universities and some departments. During that period there was a spreading spirit of defeatism. There were spreading calls in the country--and among some of us, as you well remember--urging the youths in the universities to carry out moves, provocations and strikes. This was accompanied by sabotage at times.

For example, we had a transport crisis: They burned the buses. Was this political action? It was a strange act. Despite all these transgressions, from 1971 to 1973 I did not resort to martial law, although I had the power to do so. I did not resort to one single extraordinary measure. I did not reopen the detention camps. I am confident that if I put those who committed these acts in the detention camps, the people would not have objected.

Nevertheless, I will not go back on what I say or have said. In particular, I will suppress no idea or opinion and I will not go back on my words, but there is a limit to everything.

When I ask you to go back a little in time with me, to the period between 1971 and 1973, you all know that those who carried out these moves were instigated youth who did not represent the base, either among the students or among the people. That was why I did not adopt any measures. These youth represented a minority.

The students occupied the Supreme Council of the Universities in Cairo for 1 week. They delivered speeches filled with obscene and rude words, as if we had opened the universities to teach our sons such language. I referred these students to the prosecutor. I did not adopt any extraordinary measure. I then pardoned them. You all know the ideology of these instigated students. They were all Marxists.

I am telling you frankly and clearly that I have never gotten so mad as I got that day when I was informed of an incident which occurred at Alexandria University. A professor at Alexandria University pulled down a wall poster. You all know that the wall posters were full of dirt. You read and saw them. A student attacked the professor who was pulling down the wall poster. I think you remember that the only thing I did--and I was ready to go to the end to do it--was to issue a decision expelling the student for good, come what may.

This was the situation before 1973. We waged our battle in 1973. I lifted the censorship on the press in 1974. It is now more than 4 and a half years since I did that. In the previous 50 years press censorship had not been lifted in Egypt for more than 40 days, 40 days with interruptions. It is now 4 and a half years since I lifted the censorship on the press. I then submitted a paper for developing the ASU, on the basis of which the platforms were formed. The platforms then became parties. The three parties were then formed, representing the three wings [left, center and right]. The New Al-Wafd Party was then formed. I have no objection to all this, neither in the past, nor now, nor in the future.

However, let us discuss certain things. I have no objection if someone becomes excited. This is normal. We are all human beings and susceptible to becoming excited. However, you who are responsible for educating the coming generations must never become excited. The teaching staff club should not become excited and tell me to postpone the referendum. I have explained to you all the aspects of the situation and why I have resorted to this step.

I have done this to protect democracy. The New Al-Wafd wants to exploit democracy. Last summer I said more than once and publicly that there will be no turning back and that the old methods will not be revived. In the past 2 months we saw the methods of the past emerging again in their ugliest form. These were the methods we rebelled against on 23 July. As I have said, in the old days the parties were afraid of the king and the British.

Now there is no king, and no British. What will become of the country? They are still the same people [referring to the Al-Wafd Party leaders] whom we resented when we rose on 23 July to purge the political scene of such people. As you have all seen, for the past 2 months attempts have been made to cast doubt on the regime and rulers, and on everything. They doubt every achievement, to the extent that they imagined they could cast doubt on me for example.

I do not believe that anyone will disagree with me that there is a need to link Sinai with Egypt through tunnels. It has been proved that we made a grave mistake in the past by isolating Sinai from Egypt. These people want to cast doubt on everything. They say, well, this tunnel is unnecessary. Is this sensible and is this what democratic practice means? They even say that the tunnel is unnecessary. Why? Because it is an achievement. The same goes for all achievements. It is a return to the old methods and the old logic through individuals who were purged from the political scene 26 years ago. This purge was carried out so the people would complete their march safely and without exploitation by these people. Suddenly they want to settle their account with the 23 July Revolution. After the attempts to cast doubt, the rumors, the destruction, and all the methods which are totally unrelated to honest and noble political practice, we find ourselves engaged in comparing the 1919 revolution with the 23 July Revolution, and Sa'd Zaghlul and An-Nahhas with Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, as if, as you have heard me say, everything before the 1952 revolution was pure honey and everything thereafter all myrrh. We have to protect democracy from those who want to exploit democracy to impose conditions against which we rose 26 years ago. You were the first to support us in this.

This is one thing. The other is that, as I said, there was no press freedom in Egypt in the 50 years before I assumed office, since the incomplete independence of 22 February, except for 40 intermittent days. We have now had press freedom for 4 and a half years. Now, what has happened? For the first time in the history of Egypt, a parties law has been promulgated giving every party the right to publish its own newspaper without a prior permit from anyone, not even the Publications Department. Some of you veterans know what used to happen when a newspaper was to be published. It required permits from the Publications Department and from the Interior Ministry, and it required a license, and so on and so forth. When the parties law was enacted and every party got the right to publish its own paper, newspapers appeared immediately without prior permission from anyone. Nobody can claim that he has been approached by a censor, and nobody can say that he has been asked by any government agency to cross out anything or not to write anything. So what happened? The newspaper of the grouping [Progressive National Grouping Party] was published, and you have read over 16 of its editions. It should have been referred to the judiciary from the first edition, but I said that the experiment was still new and let them continue. This is because we were all agreed that social peace is the cornerstone in our current phase. What is the meaning of social peace? It means that we run our affairs and all our dialogs as one family. It means that we run our affairs through dialog, not by turning classes against one another and not by inciting the masses or exploiting circumstances of which we are all aware. I have often said that we have until 1980, meaning that we will not be able to get out of the bottleneck and end this suffering easily. I said that the people's sufferings must not be exploited because such are our circumstances. Our circumstances are rudiments of the past whether in connection with the services, with food or with housing. These are vestiges of the past.

So, suddenly, the freedom enjoyed or the rights and guarantees granted under the democracy are being used to strike at democracy itself. Do we have time for matters such as the undermining of the social peace and the initiation of a class struggle?

We have two great battles. The first is the battle of liberation which we began with the October war. We are now engaged in a peace initiative. There will be other stages not less important than the October war. This is one battle.

The second battle is that of rebuilding on the basis of modern technology in order that we may keep pace with our age and not be isolated from the world. We have closeted ourselves for about 20 years and have thus added to our backwardness. We are now trying to correct all of this, but this requires an indescribable amount of effort.

This is as far as the press and the course are concerned. As for democratic practice and the formation of parties, I have no objection, as I have already said, to the formation of parties. If one or two parties are formed in the future, then this would be welcome, but they must be formed after the People's Assembly legislative term. In other words, anybody can go ahead and form a party after the assembly's next three sessions in accordance with the parties law. This is a stage which we introduced as a transitional stage in order to avoid the experience Portugal and Spain are going through to this very day. It took Portugal 2 years to move from totalitarian rule to democracy. It took Portugal 2 years to do so and the two superpowers interfered. There was no government, production or anything in the country for 2 years. What was more serious was the fact that during these 2 years there would be incidents such as a party seizing one of the state radio stations and the army blowing it up. This happened because when the tumult began there was no understanding of the nature of the stage of transition from totalitarian to democratic rule. All this happened. We are surpassing and have indeed surpassed this stage. We have not only surpassed this stage but have actually entered the stage of practicing politics. Three wings--right, left and center--were established. A fourth party--the New Al-Wafd Party--was formed. As I have told you, there will be no objection to this continuing to happen in the future, provided that it is done after the next legislative session and in accordance with the parties law. This law has, for the first time, granted all rights under the supremacy of the law to the parties to issue their papers on the day they are announced and when they complete the documents pertaining to the issuance of their paper. When has this happened before in the history of Egypt? No less than 20 parties will be formed after the legislative session. I will remind you. It was essential that we introduce a transitional period. I would like to ask: Has anybody opposed the present three wings--right, left and center? Has anybody opposed the party papers? Does anybody oppose democratic practice? Nobody does. The supremacy of the law prevails. Why then do we exploit democracy to undermine social justice, our life and security, at a time when we are in dire need of solid national unity to confront the entire world? In whose interests is this being done? The Marxists have regrettably formulated a theory which they cannot abandon about what happened before and after the 23 July Revolution. They have not changed their concepts despite the existence of the anticommunist laws--as I have told you and as you know--before the 23 July Revolution during the eras of Sidqi Pasha and An-Nahhas Pasha. You have all studied these laws and know them. After the 23 July Revolution, 'Abd an-Nasir went through a 5-year period of throwing Marxists in jail.

After 1971 and before party practices were being fully implemented, it was possible to stand up in the ASU Central Committee and, in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy, say: We are Marxists.

Nobody opposed them and their tongues were not cut out nor their heads cut off, as used to happen in the past. It was necessary to cut out their tongues or to behead them but nothing of the sort happened. They stood up in the Central Committee before the battle and before the formation of the parties to say whatever they wanted in an atmosphere of complete democracy, because democracy, I fully agree, is not laws but a conduct, course and atmosphere. They stood up to say "we the Marxists" and nobody opposed them at all. They should have changed their methods. When one person stood up in the Central Committee and said this, nobody objected and nobody told him: Sit down, you are a communist. He entered the Central Committee because I insisted on this. He was not an elected member, but he was one of those who completed the quorum, and I put him and others on the committee. This called for a change in method because it was the method which was followed before and after the 23 July Revolution and until the detention camps were closed. We should have changed this method after 1971 because a new democratic atmosphere has been created enabling a person to stand up in the Central Committee and say "we the Marxists" without being opposed by anybody and also to say "we the Marxists believe this, this and that," without being stopped. This is freedom of opinion.

No, it has not changed. This is the very same method. On the very day their newspaper was issued in accordance with the parties law and the supremacy of the law, a process of total destruction began. The regrettable thing is that leaflets were being issued. Everybody knows that issuing leaflets is a clandestine action. Well, why do you do this? You now have an open publication and nobody has the right to oppose you or to object to what you write in it. You have made this paper into something worse than all the leaflets. You had published 16 editions and I had not yet said no. On 18 and 19 January they wrote in the paper and they reported the incidents of those days. But how far can we go and where are we heading? Where are we heading? Democracy is being exploited by the reactionaries, by the prerevolution parties and by the prerevolution leaderships, which are all being eaten away by worms; democracy is being exploited to mislead the people and the youth; it is being exploited by the Marxists under the name of the National Progressive Rally. All of this is designed to totally destroy social peace. Will I, in my capacity as the person responsible for the march, stand by as an onlooker? Never, I will not stand by as an onlooker. Nor will I use the old accepted method of allying myself with one side in order to strike at the other side, only to later disown the side with which I had allied myself. Never. I went directly to the people and told them: People, you are facing three obstacles on the path of democracy. The first is the Marxists' exploitation of the National Progressive Rally--this is a party called the rally, and they linked underground action to open action. But 18 and 19 January was the decisive episode. Why? It was said that that had been a popular uprising. Radio Moscow took their side. I say that this is an uprising of thieves. I would say "yes" if the people wanted to go out and protest. The government is not made of prophets; it makes mistakes. It is quite possible for mistakes to be made in view of the magnitude of work. Look at the magnitude of work now facing the government. No government in history could cope with this much work. The government is removing debris, while at the same time embarking on reconstruction work. There is also the battle of liberation, and we are facing up to our pan-Arab, international and other responsibilities. All these things are being done simultaneously.

It was being said that this was a popular uprising. What kind of popular uprising is this? As I have told you, while there was a transport crisis, they burned 40 buses. Well, is this then a popular uprising carried out to solve the transport problem? Is it a popular uprising for us to get out of the bottleneck as far as food is concerned and then burn the consumer complexes and loot their contents? Is it a popular uprising to burn Cairo? They brought one of the 40 buses which caught fire to block the path of the fire department so that the fire engines could not get out to extinguish the fire while Cairo was burning--and the burning had actually begun. That was the decisive factor. And this is why I said: People, I am sorry because I am a year late. I am a year late. However, I have done this deliberately. Since 18 and 19 January 1977, since just a little over a year, I have been deliberately thinking: No, we will do nothing. Let us give the experiment a little more time, because I know that the popular basis in the country is 100 percent sound. I said: Let us allow some time. Perhaps the people will be convinced. But it is useless. They issued 16 editions, as I have told you, and they were proceeding in this manner to write indescribable things in them. You should have read what they wrote when they went to talk to the father of one of the martyrs of Larnaca and what they wrote about the man's reply. Why do they resort to lies, to being misleading and devious? Read the article. You will see in it all the implications. It is not just a matter of being unethical. No, you will see everything it implies, and what it implies is destruction.

Then I told the people: People, these people represent a miscalculation in the march because they take advantage of their right under the parties law to issue a newspaper for the first time in Egypt's history, and perhaps even in the history of a great many democratic states in the world, without even applying for a permit or license, and they use this newspaper to shake social peace and to say that 18 and 19 January was a popular uprising. Then I told the people: People, this is a mistake along the course of the popular march. People, these people who cause the setback represent an error committed in the course of the march because they will set us back. The exercise of democracy began. We left it alone. Then the casting of doubt followed; all the government members accepted bribes. None of the rulers were doing anything.

Such talk was uttered in your club. I say that this behavior is wrong. If we allow it to continue, look what will happen when the next university term starts. The students, like the Al-Wafd Party used to do in old times, will enter the university with knives and whips in their hands.

What used to happen in the old times? The Wafdist students would carry knives and whips. The Moslem brotherhood students would carry knives and whips. The Sa'dist [reference to Sa'd Zaghlul] students would carry knives and whips.

Is this how a university should work? Do you want me to forego the achievements of 25 years because some people want to exploit democracy? Do you want me to be happy and say that there is democracy? Do you want me to be happy and say that there is democracy and let everyone do as he likes? It is my duty to ask the people to put an end to this because it is wrong.

I come to the people and say: People, anyone who encroached on the people's freedom after the 23 July Revolution--and, naturally, I mean the centers of power and everyone who had been convicted in a torture case for having insulted the Egyptian man--People, no, exclude this person from the democratic march because he will take democracy and exploit it as the others had done.

I come to the people and say: The presence of the three above-mentioned obstacles in the democratic march is a mistake. This is my opinion. Kindly voice your opinion, people.

Then the Alexandria University faculty club sent me a telegram telling me: Stop the referendum. [indistinct passage on case of 'Ismat Zayn ad-Din] It is impermissible for this to be the opinion of the university teaching staff; never, never.

I waived all the trappings of power and then you came to Alexandria and told me: We want 'Ismat. I told you: Well, here is 'Ismat Zayn ad-Din. You take him and solve his problem. This means that there is no ruler who wants to gloat and there is no ruler who wants to adhere to the process of protocol, to create an issue and say this and that cannot be; never.

You were all sitting with me in Alexandria as citizens when the question [of 'Ismat Zayn ad-Din] was raised. I told you: Would you guarantee him? Here, come and take him. Why should such a spirit be created again in Alexandria University and in the staff club--the staff club, the staff organization? The Moslem brotherhood members in the university had every right to get together and debate the affairs of their country like any other citizens. Every Egyptian citizen has the right to discuss the affairs of his country, but you are noted or must be noted for one thing. Your discussion must be conducted scientifically because you are responsible for producing the future generations. This is point number one. The second point is that you are academicians who are not influenced by emotionalism. Leave emotionalism for the students, but you yourselves must not become emotional. Give the facts, whether they relate to a political subject or public life or the country. Bring up the subject and look into its various aspects in a sound scientific method. If you do not have the required information, ask the education minister to provide it. Tell him: We are in the process of studying a particular subject and we do not have such and such a fact. Please provide us with this information. If you were to send and ask me for this information, I would supply it. If you were to tell me that you were in the process of studying a particular subject but that your information was incomplete and you would like to express an opinion, I would provide you with the information. This is the proper method. But to hold meetings, adopt decisions and then send telegrams, this is not something you should do in your capacity as university professors. Leave this to the students. Even the students--after learning the facts--have not done such a thing for the past 2 years. You must never do such a thing. It is your duty to study and express an opinion with the sobriety of the university professors who will produce or are actually producing the future generations.

I want to say this in front of all of you because I have nothing to hide and you can never say I have prejudged anybody. The proof is what I told you when you were discussing 'Ismat's question with me in Alexandria. I told you then. Please come and take him. This is no problem for us. If a problem rises, we will sit and discuss it. As long as I am in power I will tell you simply without any of the trappings of power or pomposity or anything else that we are all equal partners in sharing the responsibility. I do not want to be long with you. I can see that a dialog might be more useful. I will now give the say to anyone who wants to discuss things.

Dialog With Staff

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[Dialog between Egyptian President as-Sadat and Alexandria University professors during 28 May meeting at As-Sadat's retreat in Al-Qanatir al-Khariyah]

[Excerpts] Al-Qanatir al-Khariyah, 28 May--Following President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's speech, a dialog took place between the president and some professors on the current conditions and the measures which are being adopted or will be adopted to safeguard the democratic practice and purge the experiment from its negative aspects.

In response to speeches [of support by two faculty members], President as-Sadat said: All of us undoubtedly agree that dialog is our only course. This is what prompted my immediate agreement to meet with you when I received your cable asking for such a meeting. In our life and in our new structure, we must depend now, tomorrow, and in the future on free dialog within the one family without any emotions or without resorting to what some people resort to as a kind of intellectual blackmail. We will never accept this. Why? It is because I want us in the new structure which we are building--the state of institutions--to forge our way, God willing, as a mature state. Our people, with a few exceptions, are very mature on all levels. It is inevitable that there should be the odd one and the normal one among every people and in every family. I want the dialog to be conducted without any emotion and to be a family dialog because such a dialog will ultimately bring about security and safety to this society. I agree with you that the faculties of each man should soar toward unlimited horizons to realize the prosperity of Egypt and of the individuals themselves.

This is what I am concerned about when I speak about the social peace and those who threaten the social peace. Why should we revert to old concepts? We have embarked on a new experiment--democracy in rebuilding--which has proved to be a basic experiment. There will be mistakes and violations, but they will be dealt with through dialog and not through popular uprising. Some people may come out and describe a bloody action or a criminal as a popular uprising and then come to me and say they want to discuss with me the state of affairs in Egypt. I would tell such persons: You are not fit to discuss anything. I want those who speak to speak for Egypt, and about its rebuilding and the aspirations of the Egyptian man for security, freedom and dignity. These are our aspirations and nothing will happen to harm them. We will not make mistakes about this. No matter how much we may disagree, we will find the right solution in the end.

I share your views in all this, but now that this subject has been broached, I must tell you that I hold you to blame. Regarding the dialog, I fully agree with all that you said, Dr Ghayth. I look upon you and indeed all the people look upon you as the pioneers building the future generations. It is a law of life that all persons should die and that generations should change. This is a dynamic process of history which nobody can ever stop. You have prepared traditions for the club. This is something great. I have not read any reports, but before you came to meet with me as you used to do and as I said the next day: Should I become so angry and furious as to attack, or should there be a dialog? [sentence as published] I said no. I will try and find out. After I met with you in Alexandria and handed 'Ismat Zayn ad-Din over to you, I stated a fact. I said then that I was no longer worried about what was happening because it is in the nature of democracy that there should be opinions. There should be the opinion and the counteropinion and there should be those who disagree. All this is a routine, natural thing.

Only yesterday [sentence incomplete]. I spoke before about people who were not members of the club coming to the club. I also at one time spoke about certain members of the national assembly and about emotionalism in the past. All this surely happened before the period you are talking about, Dr Ghayth. This is why, as I told you, having said what I said and after meeting with you in Alexandria, the matter was closed. I did say, however, that it is very natural for you to discuss matters and that you should do it in a sound, scientific way. What I do not like to see is outsiders trying to exploit the name of the Alexandria University faculty. What you do is your own business. If we ultimately disagree, you will ask me to get together with you, like this meeting today, and you will tell me our view is such and such, and I will say no, I believe such and such. We will not disagree in the end.

Why? Because our aim is to serve the interests of this country, the supreme national interests. We will not disagree at all. This is why I do not mind meeting with you at any time and discussing with you any subject, whatever it may be. There is no embarrassment and no antagonism because when you come to me I will tell you what is happening regarding the issue at hand. We will sit down and talk most frankly because we are not hiding anything, and there is nothing that we want to keep from the people. However, for an outsider to exploit the name of the staff club is a matter which I hope [you will do something about] as you did of your own accord, and without anybody's intervention, when you introduced controls regarding discussions to keep them above party level.

Yours should be national interests, not party interests. You should also introduce controls in this connection so that no one will exploit the name of the faculty club, as for example somebody coming out of a mosque heaping abuse. You have seen how some of the old types in the assembly resorted to abuse and insolence, even in the People's Assembly. These are the old methods which you heard me talk about face to face with the brother members of the People's Assembly. It so happens that one's conduct is also exploited in the name of the Alexandria University faculty club to promote matters over which I said I will take anyone to task. Why? Because in democracy, there must be a moral obligation, as Dr Ghayth has rightly said, and there must be commitment, as the university's vice president, Dr 'Ashmawi, has said. There should be controls, not dictated but emanating from what everyone of us feels toward his homeland and toward our march at any particular time in any particular phase. Events have occurred and other events will occur because the march continues and does not stop. You will have your meetings, your comments and your studies. All I ask is that you enhance your work with controls based on past experience. Draw up these controls yourselves to prevent the exploitation of the name of the Alexandria University staff club by certain persons who are sabotaging the social peace in your name. When I ask this (?I do not do so to prove or disprove particular stances of yours). No, I want to conduct a dialog with you that will lead us to what is most correct and sound, so that each one of us will do his duty in his place and so that we will ultimately have the society we desire for our sons, our people and the future generations.

[Asked for a clarification of the powers and jurisdictions of the socialist public prosecutor] President as-Sadat said: This is indeed an important question. The idea of the socialist prosecutor first germinated in this hall in 1970. It evolved in this hall on the evening of 20 December 1970, some 2 or 3 months after I assumed office. I was at that time sitting here and I decided to liquidate the custodianships. I issued three decrees. The first abolished the custodianships. The second stipulated that no custodianship will be imposed, unless it is in the interest of the state and done through the judiciary. This means that no Egyptians will be involved in such custodianship. I clearly and frankly tell you that this custodianship involves cases of state security, particularly spies and foreigners. I have even provided guarantees that custodianship on such people will be imposed only on a judge's order. However, in urgent cases, the socialist prosecutor can act first and quickly to prevent the escape of a spy or anybody else who has committed an action against the state's security. However, the socialist prosecutor must first go immediately to the judge and obtain his approval for this measure.

The third decree provided for the appointment of the socialist prosecutor to take action and refer the matter to the court. It also provided for the formation of a court in which the popular judiciary [al-qada' ash-sha'bi] has been introduced.

This court is composed of three judges and three laymen [sha'biyyin], as in the jurists system. It was my intention that they should serve as jurists and come from the same environment as the defendant who is being referred to the court. But when it came to implementing the decree, they formed a six-man court, three of whom are judges and the other three laymen. The most senior judge presides over its sittings and adopts the necessary steps at the court.

I will now speak to you about the history of the word socialist prosecutor. In every country in the world and in every system as well, such as in the Soviet Union and the United States, the duty of the prosecutor is to safeguard the system of the state. There is no secretary of justice in the United States, but there is an attorney general. There is a public prosecutor in the Soviet Union. One defends the Marxist system in the Soviet Union and the other defends the capitalist system in the United States against any phenomena which might not come under the jurisdiction of the law. I gave an example of this when I addressed the People's Assembly and spoke about the wave of laxity prevailing in the country. Some go to the mosques, preach and spread rumors. There is a wave of laxity. The results of the recent referendum are an order that we must all cooperate to stop this laxity. We have looked around and discovered that we have five or six writers in Iraq. Iraq provided them with a fully equipped radio station which they are using to curse Egypt all day long. They set up an office and officially announced to the world and the news agencies that so and so are the staff of the office which will liberate Egypt because there is no democracy in Egypt. There is democracy in Egypt. The Ba'th Party members and those responsible for the dragging incidents in Iraq, which all of you know about, have democracy but we do not have democracy. We see the same thing in Libya and also in Paris after they transferred the press shop from Beirut to Paris. This shop is also financed by Iraq and Libya. The papers are the same and they are regrettably published by Egyptian journalists in all these places. Moreover, you might have read today that there are journalists here in Egypt who have volunteered to send their articles abroad. Some do so to increase their income and live better, while others do so out of spite. Naturally, we will try the latter.

What matters is that there is a wave of irresponsibility, of laxity. In 1973 you heard me speak at the People's Assembly about the Cairo of 1973 and the Cairo of 1978. In 1973 I was surprised to see one of those people talking about Egypt being finished. Before that there was sectarian strife in 1972. [Some people said] that there would be no battle because the Soviet experts were expelled. It is a wave of anxiety, not among the people who are the base, but among that group of people, each of whom has a certain objective in mind. I could refer them to justice. Well, you see I worked as a journalist once and I can write things without violating the law; I can write all the destructive material I like. Why? Because if I write these things, when I face a judge I will be able to talk about freedom of opinion. We therefore need what is called political investigation. Under judicial investigation anyone who violates the law will face his judge without there ever being any doubt or excesses, and no power can prevent this. All this proceeds under the constitution and the supremacy of the law. There is no problem with the judicial side, but when it comes to political investigation [it is different]. By laying down political (?rules) the character of a person will be discerned, because probably, or rather definitely, no such people will write anything answerable to the law. They will write in a twisted way and claim freedom of opinion. The socialist prosecutor will submit this to the People's Assembly and it is up to the People's Assembly to say yes or no, and to amend it or not.

You are right in saying that in the People's Assembly the government has a majority, otherwise it would not be in office because confidence would be withheld from it.

We had a similar situation once. You remember the opening of the 1976 legislative term of the People's Assembly, which followed the election of the assembly. After the 18 and 19 January events [all dates as received] a People's Assembly member sent a cable using abusive language against the president of the republic. As he was a member of the People's Assembly I sent the cable to the assembly with the remark: This is one of the assembly members, so you deal with it. So the cable went to the assembly. They met and spoke. This case took about 4 or 5 months and kept the assembly in session. The assembly examined the case and decided to expel the member and withdraw his membership. He complained to the judiciary. The constituency was open to nomination. The same member sent an application for nomination to the Interior Ministry, which refused to accept it on the grounds that this man had been expelled. He went to court. The court told the Interior Ministry that it must accept the papers, so it did. The thing is that the matter took 4 or 5 months. The executive authority is totally committted to everything that the law stipulates. Not one word of the law has been broken. One day it got to the point where two contradictory verdicts were issued, one by the administrative court and the other by the supreme court. So what did we do? We went to the legislative authority, which said that since this has happened, any member of the People's Assembly who is expelled or whose membership is withdrawn cannot nominate himself for the rest of the same legislative term, which is 5 years, but after that he may nominate himself. Let us be a bit frank. Does the apprehension stem from the fact that I have said that the Marxists shall have no place in the state? It is possible, but how and who will lay down this criterion. We must learn and we must devise a method of government for ourselves and accept a state of institutions so every institution will have its full authority. This is what I believe in and implement to the extent that weeks pass without me following the affairs of the institutions. I go out to explore new land for our children and for food security, and I see to the open-door policy. I leave the institutions alone on the grounds that each institution has its head and has full authority. When this happens why should they disagree. I will not go back on this.

I want to say someting. There is no regime in the world which can produce a parliamentary system or a presidential system like we have here, which is 100 percent democratic. Actually, the presidential democracy which we have combines the two. It combines the presidential and parlaiemtnary systems. As for the government's responsibility--and our brother jurists know this--no system is complete, but there is a guarantee. This guarantee is that this matter will be discussed at the level of the People's Assembly and before the people. What does the level of the People's Assembly mean? It means that the matter will be discussed before all the people. Do I have a purpose in this from the judicial aspect? No. All of you know that I say on every occasion that I really owe my life to the judiciary. When I stood trial for 2.5 years from 1946 to 1948, the Egyptian judiciary adopted a magnificent and honorable stand. This has been the stand of the judiciary throughout and these are actually its traditions. I want our judiciary to remain as it is now. There is no power over the judge except his conscience. Whatever happens, I want to keep the judge away from the political process, which involves much crookedness and foul play, as we can see. Let our judiciary stay away from such operations. However, anybody who commits an action which is punishable by law will not be referred to the socialist prosecutor or anybody else, but hewill be directly referred to the judiciary. There can never be any interference or duplicity.

[In reply to a request that the government's political, economic and executive actions be separated from each other], President as-Sadat answered: I am very grateful indeed for having the pleasure of the discussion we have held together.

Indeed, these are matters which give rise to a national level and which affect us all. This is on one side, and on the other side, you, as the elite sons of Egypt, occupy posts which enable you to produce the future generations. Your education is of such a standard that you will always try to seek the essence rather than the surface. Indeed, this is a pleasurable discussion. Before completing my comments on what our friend of the law faculty has said, I wish to remind you of Article 179 of the constitution. Article 179 reads: The socialist public prosecutor will be responsible for adopting the measures which will guarantee the peoples rights and society's security and political system and will safeguard the socialist gains and the socialist conduct. The law will define his other jurisdictions and he will be subject to the People's Assembly supervision in the manner specified bylaw. I did want to recall this first. Let us agree that our work should be within the framework which we have chosen for ourselves--our constitution and the state of institutions. I want to say that I have not departed from the constitution in this, but there are fundamental matters, as the brother has explained. The basis of social justice, as he said, is economic justice. This is 100 percent correct, and I support him in this. You might remember that when we speak about the 23 July Revolution, we say that it is two revolutions at the same time. It is a political revolution and a social revolution.

Why? Because the 1919 revolution is part of our history and entity. However, its social aspect was blotted out by the political aspect. In 1919, the people's aim was to oust the British. However, when the incomplete independence came in 1922, those who staged the revolution deviated from the constitution after the incomplete independence and began fighting over seats of power, forgetting all about the basic aim of the 1919 revolution--the expulsion of the colonialists first.

On 23 July, we said there were two sides: the deprived ones of those whose livelihood was controlled by others. Certainly, these people were not free to vote because those who controlled their livelihood told them whom to vote for. All of us are aware that this used to take place before 1952. This is why we said that the big landowners and others did not represent the people, disregarded them and did not feel any ties with them, and that when the New Al-Wafd Party emerged, the party official who wants to bring all those things back stood up to say there was no feudalism in Egypt. This is regrettable and embarrassing.

However, I agree with you 100 percent that economic justice is the basis of social peace, but I differ with you on one thing: Never tell me not to be afraid of the events of 18 and 19 January. No. When the people are going through a difficult phase like the one we are going through, it is the duty of all of us--we who have been brought to power by the country--to see that the people are protected but not to be trustees over them. No, we must see to their protection and tell them what is permissible and what is forbidden and leave it for them to chose between the two.

The events of 18 and 19 January are a serious phenomenon, because at the time when we are suffering, a group emerges to take advantage of this suffering.

However, I would like to say something. I have already said it to the prime minister and the Council of Ministers. I want to say that whatever our standard of living, our people will never be angry or be in the least affected if the burdens are justly distributed. We must share the loaf of bread in a fair manner. No one may be privileged over others.

I have told the Council of Ministers: Tell the people all the facts. Tell them that a certain commodity will not be available for 6 months and that whatever is available of this commodity, we will share it equally until we get more. Our people will then be extremely happy and will not be angry at all.

I agree with you completely, even if the matter involves one (?egg). When there is a privileged class and things are not shared equally, then there can be social peace.

I have not declared this yet, but I will delcare it to you today. I have received the taxation law and prepared studies on it through your brothers after debating it with them. I will return this taxation law [to the People's Assembly], and I will not ratify it during the 30 days granted (?me) under the constitution. Why? Because I am surprised. I hear that in England, which is a capitalist country, the lords left their palaces. They could not afford to stay there because of the taxes and because this is a sign of privilege. The taxes made the lords turn their homes into museums which the people visit after paying a shilling. The lord takes the money and pays the government what he owes it, but he cannot afford to live in it.

If this is the case in a capitalist society, what must be the case in our socialist society in which a class has emerged as a result of the economic open-door policy? However, we must not exaggerate because we are talking scientifically.

It is impossible for 500 millionaires to emerge in 4 years, as one of the Marxists has said in the People's Assembly. He said that 500 millionaires have emerged. He said this about 2 years ago and the economic-open door policy was 2 years old then. This means that in 2 years the state has worked or so much capital has entered the states as to allow for the emergence of 500 millionaires--500 million pounds? If we calculate this as being their profit at 10 or 20 percent of what has entered the country, then 100 percent of this will amount to how much? The amount will be in billions. It means that billions have entered the country. No. This is a lie. Disparity has, indeed, occurred and a parasitic class sprang up. Yes, this is true. Let us continue in our calm scientific line. This class did not spring up alone. No. There was another class. The members of this class were more clever than the 23 July Revolution and more clever than 'Abd an-Nasir. They hid their money and jewelry but joined every happy occasion and cheered for 'Abd an-Nasir. They went out with torn clothes. When I announced the open-door policy, and everyone felt secure, they came out. I am aware of this subject. When I am at the airport to receive a head of state, I walk from Heliopolis to 'Abidin. I live in Al-Jizah. I go out for a walk and come back. Without exaggeration. Make this trip from Heliopolis to the Pyramids. You will find at least 1,000 buildings 12 and 15 stories high--12 and 15 stories. They are luxurious buildings. They are not the popular houses which we want. Who are the owners of these buildings, those who would give me the key? Are they the class of millionaires which emerged recently, or are they some other people? It has emerged that 90 percent of the owners are those who hid their money and jewelry. Why am I returning the [taxation] law? I am announcing this to you now; the decision was due to be announced this afternoon. I planned to announce it this afternoon. I am returning the law because social peace can only be achieved through economic justice. I believe in this completely.

It is necessary to distribute the burden. People who live in luxury must pay. For your information, I harbor no hatred for anyone. I hope every citizen in Egypt will have a high standard of living, with a villa, a car and every modern convenience. I harbor no hatred at all and I do not begrudge people making money, provided they give the state its share. People must pay for luxuries. Why? Because the burden must be distributed in the spirit of a united family which should know no hatred and live in social peace. Therefore, it is necessary to return the law so it can achieve this, and then we can overcome the difficult conditions and the bottleneck we can continue our work in social peace. Our method should be dialog and not hatred and bitterness.

In addition to these, other classes have emerged. We must not hate the fact that they have emerged. For exmple, there is the taxi driver. As you may know, I still have a taxi drivers union card. I am happy every time I go walking on the Al-Ma'adi street, to see three, four or five taxis parked on the street, and the driver together with his children and wife sitting next to the taxi along the Nile and enjoying life. They go there for a walk and then sit down and have a Coca Cola. Every time I go there I find a least four or five. Why? Because in the first half of the day the driver makes 5 or 6 pounds. The time has come for him, as a human being to go out with his family and sit together like other car owners. This makes me happy. You all know the artisans. There was a complaint about them. The builder here makes 6 pounds a day. I do not envy them and I am not angry at them. Not at all. However, I want them to help me insure the others, to insure them in case of disability, sickness old age or death. I insist on this.

I will return the taxation law today, God willing, because, as I told you, social peace demands that there be a fair distribution of the economic burdens.

Now we come to national unity. It was regrettable and shameful to read in AL-AHRAM yesterday that Begin has told Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Congress--AL-AHRAM has published interviews with him and he was called, even in AL-AHRAM, the last wise man of Zion. [incomplete sentence as received] I know this man. I saw him in the United States and in Europe. In Europe he came to Paris especially to see me despite Begin's warning. He came with Baron Rothschild. He came with all the principal figures who support Israel, and they met with me in Paris. I also saw him in Jerusalem. Goldmann said [in an AL-AHRAM interview] yesterday that Begin told him: Shut up and do not open your mouth for 4 months. Do not upset things for me. He told him this because it is known that Goldmann is a champion of the idea that peace is more important than territory, and, therefore, Israel must not waste time. Goldmann has not kept his opinions to himself, before Begin assumed office or after. But Begin told him not to open his mouth for 4 months, and he did. Why? Begin wants both peace and territory for Israel, and he wants to prove Goldmann wrong. But it transpired that Begin was wrong, because no one is prepared to give him territory. We are prepared to give him peace, but not territory. But Goldmann did keep quiet for 4 months.

Now let us see what is happening here. Read the newspaper of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, which was published without the need for a permit from anyone, because no one has a right to oppose the publication of a party paper. Because the Soviet Union is furious about the initiative, they are furious. Why? They publish what the enemies of Egypt say abroad.

This is at a time when our people in their millions have supported this initiative. They stunned me. By God, had I found after my visit to Jerusalem that the people did not support the initiative or rejected it, I tell you frankly that I would not have stayed in my position for one moment. For me the question is not a question of position at all. My dream as a child was to do something for my country. I have done so. But, at the same time, I believe that the people are what matters, and that their will is always right; it is always right. You rest assured that in any future case I will withdraw and ask the people to choose whoever they want and the course they want.

Well, in whose interest does the party paper publish statements and articles by all those who attack Egypt because of the initiative, while the aggressors, who are not asked to make concessions but to give back the territory of others, rally together in order to eat from the land of others, and we who are supposed to stand united are not doing so? Is this national unity?

We now come to the third aspect: democratic socialism. The features of socialism at first were unclear. Now there is socialism with clear features, and you are to be thanked for this. I had asked Dr Subhi, who is with us here now, to conduct a study, and he did a magnificent study based on your research. The theory he produced is taking root.

We come to the socialist prosecutor. It is not necessary to have an excuse for adopting extraordinary measures as long as I have the military regulations law. We have this law and we are in a state of battle. Of course our entire army is under arms and is deployed facing Israel. There is an agreement between Israel and me which will end in October--in 4 months. In the language of armies I must be vigilant a year before the agreement ends. Four months from now--in October--the second disengagement agreement between us will end. God only know [what will happen] because the behavior of the Israeli Government is not clear, though our behavior is clear. We are saying that we are ready with open minds and hearts. We are saying: Let the October war be the last war. However, we must be vigilant. This is not the work of the socialist prosecutor. I am pleased with your valid argument. Its essence is not to search for a method for adopting measures through me, no. This is the method that we should always follow. What is the essence? Let us leave all that is being said and the conditions that might be mentioned and so on and so forth, and let us come to the essence. Is the essence the story of the socialist prosecutor, by which a back door is to be found to infiltrate democracy? I tell you, no.

I have worked with the constitution as one of the sons of this country. It is not for history that I am telling you this at this open meeting, no. The essence is not a back door from which to infiltrate democracy, no. It is a protection for democracy. I will give you a simple example: the position of Begin and Goldmann about which I have spoken. The grouping party paper should have been committed to its country's national goals for 3 or 4 months at least, just as Goldmann was, and after it had been proven that the initiative had failed, then it could have said that in its view the initiative has failed.

As you know, in Britain after World War II when Churchill went to the Potsdam conference he took Atlee, the opposition leader, with him. It is true that it was Churchill who brought victory to Britain but we all know that after he brought victory he was removed and the Labor Party was brought in. This was done because Britain said: We have had enough of war and if Churchill is kept in his position he will disgust us with his imperialist calls. No, we want to live. They removed the one who had brought them victory.

That is why when he went to Potsdam he took Atlee with him although the elections had not taken place. Atlee, the labor and opposition leader, went with Churchill and attended the conference with Stalin and Roosevelt in Potsdam.

What I am trying to say is that there should be a minimum of commitment. Let us have the grouping party paper. There is a part in it that undermines social peace and is inflamatory. That part does not need a judge or anything else because it is as clear as the sun. Up to now, two editions have been confiscated by the judge and not by us. However, let us read the part which pertains to the higher national issue to which all of us must be committed even if we have different views. Goldmann held views different from Begin's, but he remained committed. Goldmann said to Begin: You give me 4 months, very well, I give you 6. Goldmann began to speak after 6 months and only when he found that Begin was deviating.

This is not so here. What pains me is that this is the attitude of the Soviet Union. Nobody in the world adopts this attitude other than the Soviet Union. Why? If you were to bring the paper and read about the initiative, I challenge any judge to find a single word in it that is punishable under the law. (?This is libel). It is moral rather than legal conduct. As I am emphasizing to you, the socialist prosecubor is not a back door for pressures to turn us back from democracy. This is the essence of the matter.

Therefore, our democracy requires moral conduct. I have once emphasized--and I declare this in front of you and you can put it on record--that I am satisfied that the socialist prosecutor investigates a case and then puts the results before the people, telling them that such and such a person has not abided by the national moral conduct in the interest of his country at a certain phase. This is enough for me because I want the country to learn all the facts and then to judge for itself. Isolation is definitely not my concern. Otherwise, I would have brought the case before the court. According to the martial law, that would have required only two lines. You are aware of this since you are a jurist. It would have required only two lines. In my capacity as military governor, I would write these two lines and thus do everything I want--only two lines. I did not do this.

I only want the country to know. Why? For example, some of those who write about the sufferings of the masses, or three-quarters of them, are earning twice as much as you are and 50 percent more than a cabinet minister. Alas! I know them. You are aware that I was a journalist living in the country and I know everyone in the political field. Why? Because all the parties existed since I started to work.

Some of you are old and some are young. Let us take the case of Amin 'Uthman and read it. Why? Because it is Egyptian history, because all the leaders were brought to testify in this case beginning with Mustafa an-Nahhas down to the smallest leader, including Hafiz Ramadan, leader of the National Party, and Husayn Sirri. Those were scandals that took place between 23 July. [as received] Read the case of Amin 'Uthman in which I was involved. People forget. They are surprised when one comes to them and tells them: this is the defender of the people. All right, you are receiving so much in wages, how much are you paying, you the first defender of the toilers? I know them. If the air conditioning or hot water are cut off, then it will be a problem. This is true. By God, I know them, regrettably. However, because of my position, I cannot talk, testify, go to a court or mention a name. This is so because, as you have said, you wanted me to be a father and not get excited against anyone. This is my nature.

The laws will be issued by the People's Assembly. One thing concerns me with regard to the work of the socialist prosecutor: that the people should know those who are exploiting the sufferings of the people and using their pens which are full of poison in writing about the sufferings of the people, while they themselves cannot bear living below the standard of lords. This is all I want: moral and conduct that is committed to the national line. This is all. The question of the socialist prosecutor is not a back door for the adoption of measures or for making fun of democracy. No. This is clear.

The president replied to [complaints of press attaches against Alexandria University Sciences College] by saying: In this regard, I do not know if Dr Hasan supports me when I say that there must be tacit commitment to moral, principled, ethical conduct without having a stipulation to this effect. This should not be restricted to the press only but should include all the information departments and be on the level of the entire state. This is what I have been complaining about and this is the reason which prompted me to say: Come, let us pause and see where we are going. I believe that this is very easy to put right, especially because we have with us all the chairmen of the boards of directors of the newspapers and they have heard this talk. I am with you completely. It is not a question of a university teacher only, but any ordinary citizen. Anything affecting the citizens must be dealt with justly and ethically and in line with the principles. I got tired of this and I told the People's Assembly to promulgate a law called the law of shame because there are some people who have forgotten what shame is. I honestly said this to the People's Assembly.

AS-SADAT SAYS ISRAELI INITIATIVE AWAITED

OW300804Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0736 GMT 30 May 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, May 30 (AFP)--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat in an interview with Japanese newsmen in Cairo yesterday said that he would continue negotiations with Israel to solve the Middle East problem, it was reported here today.

In the interview with the reporters of the daily ASAHI SHIMBUN, the ASAHI EVENING NEWS and the ASAHI Broadcasting Company, the Egyptian president also said that the Middle East problem could not be solved without the participation of Palestinians.

President as-Sadat stressed that the peace initiative he started last November is not in a state of "deadlock" but rather at a "standstill" for the time being.

Without elaborating, the president predicted that the next turning point in the Middle East situation would come around October this year when an agreement on the stationing of United Nations forces on the Sinai Peninsula expires.

Mr as-Sadat denied press reports that he was about to present new proposals to break the impasse in the talks with Israel. "Egypt will not take another dramatic step forward and will continue to wait for some favourable signs from Israel", President as-Sadat was quoted as saying.

President as-Sadat appreiated the fact that the United States had finally agreed on the shipment of fighter planes to Egypt and commented that this would not upset the equilibrium of the Middle East. "The United States is not yet a full partner of Egypt but it would gradually come to favour Egypt's stand", the president said.

Touching on the possible contribution of the Japanese Government toward peace in the Middle East, President as-Sadat expressed the hope that Japan would exercise a political and diplomatic influence on the Israeli Government and people.

The president told the Japanese newsmen that he would like to confer with Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda not only on the Middle East situation but also on ways to strengthen relations between Egypt and Japan when Mr Fukuda visits Cairo sometime this year.

WAR MINISTER SPEAKS OF FUTURE ROLE OF MISSILES

NC281630Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, has announced that missiles play a major role in modern warfare. He affirmed that the weapon of the future is missiles in view of their unique characteristics, which make them superior to other types of conventional weapons.

The above statement was contained in a speech made by the commander in chief of the armed forces this morning in a sector of the combat front. He was commenting on an exercise carried out with live antitank missiles recently introduced into the service. He was also expressing his appreciation of the skill shown by the crews concerned in rapidly grasping the characteristics of this new weapon, let alone the skill they showed in using this weapon and achieving accurate hits on their tagets. General al-Jamasi decided to grant the crews which participated in this exercise 1,000 pounds as an encouragement bonus.

General al-Jamasi expressed his confidence that the 6 October spirit will remain the framework which will govern work in the armed forces as far as training and readiness are concerned.

This practical exercise was attended by Maj Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali, commander of the 2nd Field Army; Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi, commander of the 3d Field Army; and a number of senior armed forces commanders and officers.

HAYKAL, JOURNALISTS BANNED FROM TRAVELING ABROAD

NC272135Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 May--The socialist public prosecutor today issued a decision banning five Egyptian journalists from traveling abroad because they are to be interrogated concerning articles they wrote in papers outside Egypt, harmful to Egypt and its prestige.

The journalists affected by the decision are Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, Ahmad Hamrush, Ahmad Fu'ad Najm and Salah 'Isa.

NAMES OF 10 JOURNALISTS WILL BE SENT TO PROSECUTOR

NC280659Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--AL-AHRAM reports today that a second list of journalists working in Egypt will be sent to the socialist public prosecutor in the next 2 days. The paper says that the total number of journalists working in Egypt who will be referred to the socialist prosecutor will not be more than 9 or 10 at most.

Public Prosecutor Comments

NC281926Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 May--The socialist public prosecutor, Counselor Anwar Habib, stated today that investigations have already started into reports received from the Interior and Information ministries implicating some journalists and writers in an attempt to undermine Egypt's reputation and corrupt the political scene.

Counselor Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Nafi', the general attorney in the Socialist Public Prosecutor's Department, has stated that the reports received from the Interior and Information ministries by the socialist public prosecutor involve 60 journalists and writers. He added that only five have been forbidden to leave the country. They are Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, Ahmad Hamrush, Salah 'Isa, Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad and Ahmad Fu'ad Najm.

He also said that the socialist public prosecutor's office has not yet requested the arrest or the recall of any of the accused journalists and writers who are abroad. He said that should it become necessary to summon them, it will be done according to the law.

Interrogation To Begin

NC270839Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 26 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 May--The People's Assembly will hold an urgent session tomorrow to study the draft law which was submitted by the deputies of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and which pertains to the referendum principles for rectifying the democratic course. The draft law will be referred to the legislative committee, which will study it and prepare a report on it. The report will then be submitted to the People's Assembly for discussion at its Monday session.

AL-AHRAM says in tomorrow's edition that agreement had been reached during the extensive discussions between the members of the legislative committee of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and the ministers of local government, interior, insurance and social affairs and justice to draw up a draft law containing the six principles on which the people unanimously agreed in the recent referendum.

Meanwhile, tomorrow the socialist public prosecutor will begin the interrogation of the first group of the elements who are working abroad against the Egyptian people's national goals and threatening the safety of the domestic front and social peace in Egypt.

The interrogations will affect 34 writers, journalists and some artists. Sixteen of them are working in Iraq and Lebanon, 8 in Libya and 10 in Europe. Some of the writers and journalists have returned to Cairo. The rest have been notified by the Egyptian Embassies abroad and given a period of grace to come to Egypt to answer the charges against them. Concerning the journalists who are in Egypt, the documents and legal evidence on which the journalists will be interrogated are still being prepared.

The socialist public prosecutor, Justice Anwar Habib, has said that the Security Department has submitted a list of the names of the first group of the writers and journalists as well as detailed reports on the nature of their information activities which are directed against Egypt. The reports include samples of writings and recordings which were published and broadcast in some European and Arab countries.

The list of the first group includes those who are working in Europe. They are Ghali Shukri, George al-Bahjuri, Mahmud Amin al-'Alim, Michel Kamil, Peter Waysa Wasif, Bahjat an-Nadi, Ahmad 'Abd al-Mu'ti Hijazi, Mustafa Ibrahim Murjan, 'Abd al-Hakim Muhammad, 'Abdallah Qasim and Mustafa 'Abd as-Salam Haykal.

Those who are working in Iraq and Lebanon are Mahmud as-Sa'dani, Sa'd at-Ta'ih, Sa'd Zaghlul Fu'ad, Tahir 'Abd al-Hakim al-Mahdi, Ahmad 'Abbas Salih, 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Ghazali, Muhammad Anwar 'Abd as-Salam, Nabil al-'Alfi, 'Abd as-Salam Zaki Mubarak, Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd al-Jalil, Safinaz Kazim, Amir Iskandar Bulus, Samir Fahmi Karam, Muhammad 'Afifi 'Amir, Fathi Khalil Ibrahim and 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khamisi.

Those who are working in Libya are As-Sa'id as-Sayyid Habib, Mustafa Ahmad Husayn Turki, As-Sayyid al-Jabrati, Fawqiyah 'Ali 'Abd al-'Al, Jalal Barakat, Jamal ad-Din ash-Sharqawi, 'Abd al-Ghani Qamar and Madhat Bakir.

High Treason Charge Considered

NC270947Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 May--The socialist public prosecutor in Egypt today will begin questioning the first group of the Egyptian elements who are working abroad against the national goals and threatening the safety of the domestic front and social peace of the Egyptian people.

Counselor Anwar Habib, the socialist public prosecutor, has stated that since yesterday his office has begun sending legal summons through the Egyptian Embassies abroad to these journalists and writers to return to Egypt. He said that if they refuse to return home, he will examine the possibility of securing the help of INTERPOL to arrest them and bring them to the country.

The public prosecutor ruled that these journalists and writers should be treated as political defendants. He said that the charge of high treason will be leveled against anyone whose guilt is proven after the investigation, and will be referred immediately to the attorney general.

He said that he is now discussing with the Interior Ministry and the other security services the legal aspect of lifting the Egyptian citizenship of those who fail to return home.

ISRAELI JOURNALISTS' VISIT TO EGYPT CANCELED

NC280738Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--OCTOBER magazine reports today that the Israeli journalists representing the Israeli magazine NEW OUTLOOK, who were scheduled to arrive in Egypt last Monday, did not arrive. This was done at the request of the Egyptian authorities because Israel has tried to exploit this visit throughout the world, particularly in the United States, in an attempt to prove that contacts with Egypt are still going on to achieve peace. This is despite the fact that the approval of this visit specified that it should not be exploited for propaganda purposes. However, the information services in Israel violated this agreement in order to deceive U.S. and world public opinion.

LIST COMPILED OF PERSONS BANNED FROM POLITICS

NC270951Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0836 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 May--The weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM, published today, says that the Department of the Socialist Prosecutor has compiled the first list of those who are banned from practicing any political activity in accordance with the second of the six principles on which the recent referendum was held. The paper says that the list contains the names of 90 persons who have been convicted by the revolution court. These persons had formed centers of power after the revolution of 23 July 1952 and had been referred to the revolution court under Crime No 1 of 1971.

The paper adds that the list will be submitted to the People's Assembly when the laws implementing the referendum principles are enacted. AKHBAR AL-YAWM adds that detailed lists are now being drawn of the leaders of the old parties who had corrupted political life in the past and have resumed political activities.

PEOPLE IMPRISONED FOR ADVOCATING COMMUNISM

NC280831Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that the public prosecutor assigned to the Tanta Court of Appeals has ordered that 24 defendants in cases involving communist activities be imprisoned for an unlimited period. They include 16 defendants from Al-Minufiyah, 3 from Kafr ash-Shaykh, 3 from Cairo, 1 from Al-Gharbiyah and 1 from Ad-Daqahliyah.

The paper says that the prosecution has charged all the defendents with advocating communism, wanting to change the principles of the constitution, possessing leaflets and tapes calling for resistance to the regime, [illegal] assembly and insulting the president of the republic at a public meeting.

The prosecution also issued an order for the arrest of another 22 defendants who took part in preparations for boycotting the referendum and distributing antiregime leaflets.

SECURITY DEPARTMENTS PREPARE REPORTS ON LEFTISTS

NC270840Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2307 GMT 26 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 May--The State Security Departments have prepared complete reports supported by documents on the deviations of the Leftist Party and its leaders ever since it was established in March 1976. AKHBAR AL-YAWM says in tomorrow's issue that the reports contain detailed statements on the behavior of the party in numerous situations.

PERSONS FROM 'FRIENDLY COUNTRY' DETAINED

NC280758Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0708 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--The OCTOBER magazine reports today that the Higher State Security Investigation Department has detained a number of persons from a friendly country who have come to Egypt and were collecting information and statements on a specific sphere for a foreign country.

The magazine says that these persons have been referred to the Higher State Security Prosecution.

AS-SADAT TO RETURN TAX LAW TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

NC281430Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 28 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat announced today that he will not ratify the new taxation law and that he will return it to the People's Assembly today.

During his meeting with the Alexandria University staff, he said that a law on tax justice has been prepared by a select group of specialists and university professors.

Speaking about the reasons which have prompted him to return the law to the People's Assembly, the president said that there can be no social justice without economic justice. He said there are many signs of luxury which must be accounted for.

'MIDDLE EAST REPORTER': IRAQ EXECUTES 14 COMMUNISTS

NC261421Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1348 GMT 26 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 26 May--Quoting travelers from Baghdad who are close to Eastern Bloc countries, the Beirut newsletter "Middle East Reporter" says that 14 Iraqi Communist Party members were executed in Iraq last month as part of a recent anticommunist campaign.

The newsletter also reports that a widespread arrest of communists is currently taking place on a scale never before known.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reported Thursday that Iraq has threatened to sever diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union if Moscow does not stop its military aid to the ruling regime in Ethiopia. Iraq is a staunch supporter of the Eritrean Liberation Front, which is fighting for the independence of Eritrea from Ethiopia.

Relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union, which are linked by a friendship treaty, have recently been strained, despite Iraq's dependence on Soviet spare parts for its Soviet-equipped army.

ANTI-BA'THIST ACTIVITIES, EXECUTIONS REPORTED

NC291912Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1835 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 29 May--The ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraq has threatened to inflict the death penalty on all those who propagate anti-Ba'th policies, plot to carry out a coup or spread propaganda in the armed forces.

This warning came in a long article which was published by the government daily paper ATH-THAWRAH on Sunday and Monday. Political observers here consider this as proof of the spread of antigovernment propaganda in the armed forces.

It was learned on Friday that 14 communists were executed in Baghdad in a campaign against the communists. This was followed by a communist criticism of the policy of the Iraqi Government.

Despite the fact that the national front embraces the Ba'th Party, communists and other leftist groups, ATH-THAWRAH today stressed that it is the Ba'th Party alone which has the right to formulate the country's political course.

ATH-THAWRAH WARNS FRONT GROUPS: STAY AWAY FROM ARMY

JN281106Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH affirms that the aim of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in setting up the Progressive National and Nationalist Front [PNNF] was to entrust it with the task of bypassing a complete historic stage in building Iraq.

It is to be noted that the PNNF, which is led by the Ba'th Party, is made up of the Iraqi Communist Party, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan and progressive Arabs and Kurds.

This discussion is a main editorial published in the paper, organ of the Ba'th Party, as part of a series of articles entitled "Political Action in the Armed Forces."

The paper calls upon the front's sides to reconsider their stands in a manner that will give them only two choices: First, to cohere and interact with the revolution as part of its move to build the new reality and to respect the revolution's laws and formulas in order to serve the causes of revolutionary transformation, to build socialism, and to combat imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces, as well as to boost the Ba'th Party role; or second: To keep away from this alliance, and to evade and give up their responsibilities. The paper asserts that there is no middle way between these two choices.

The paper says that the front's (?charter) has stipulated that all sides, with the exceptions of the Ba'th Party, should keep away from political action in the armed forces.

The paper adds that the party's sincere guidance in the domestic action field is based on defining the rights and duties of the front's sides in a clear and objective manner compatible with the position and weight of every side. This will underline the leading role of the Ba'th Party, reflect its views regarding the national alliance and solidify the ranks in the service of the revolution's movement and objectives and the people's aspirations.

The newspaper stresses that the phased program which was agreed upon defined the activities which are permissible as well those which are not permissible.

The paper says that, with the exception of the Ba'th Party, the other PNNF sides must not be given the right of political action in the armed forces. The paper adds that this point should be understood clearly and that deterrent measures should be taken against the violators, namely to executive anybody who commits idiotic actions in this regard.

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED IN KHARTOUM

JN290849Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May--Qasim Sa'd Hammudi, Iraqi information minister, has stressed that Iraq is always prepared to unconditionally and limitlessly contribute to strengthening cooperation among its Arab brothers.

In an interview with the Sudanese newspaper AL-AYYAM, Hammudi said that, in general, Iraq endeavors to stimulate its relations with Arab brothers in the various Arab countries. This is a natural course that has been pursued by the revolution in its principles and objectives.

He added: Thus we consider our relations with fraternal Sudan to be those of brotherhood and cooperation. We are always prepared to develop and expand these relations in the service of the two fraternal countries, Hammudi added. He asserted that Iraq spares no efforts to attain "our noble objective, namely, comprehensive Arab unity."

On Iraq's role in the Arab arena, the minister of information said that Iraq considers the Palestine issue as the focal point of its struggle and as its central goal. He said that Iraq's Arab and international policy is being defined accordingly. He stated that Iraq adopts a firm attitude toward any deviationist course or any capitulationist policy. He said Iraq is intensifying its capabilities to confront them. Iraq is sincerely and seriously attempting to thwart any idea that is not based on the intrinsic Arab force as well as on the solidarity of our friends in the world, Hammudi added.

He said that Iraq demands that certain people disassociate themselves from the settlements which are being proposed for the so called Middle East crisis or the Arab-Zionist conflict. He pointed out that a continued cycle of settlements would mean the continuation of occupation and the plundering of our wealth. This would also mean that the other Arab issues would become disconnnected from the principal issue of Palestine.

Speaking about Arab solidarity and about Iraq's stand in this regard, the minister of information said: We support every genuine, sincere and serious pan-Arab effort to consolidate the Arab nation. We also support real Arab solidarity which serves the Arab nation and the objective of liberating Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

In conclusion, the minister of information said that real solidarity derives its strength from the Arab nation's objectives and supreme pan-Arab interests. We must exert strenuous efforts to uproot the causes and policies which have caused Arab division.

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS FROM SUDAN

JN281353Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May--The chief of staff of the armed forces and the delegation accompanying him returned here today after a 3-day visit to Sudan. During the visit, the delegation attended Sudan's celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the 25 May Revolution.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR NEW YORK BANK MEETINGS

JN291234Y Baghdad Voice Of The Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah left for New York today to attend the meetings of the group of Arab and French banks due to begin on Wednesday. These meetings will last for 3 days.

Dr 'Abdallah said the most important subjects to be discussed at the meetings are increasing the group's financial resources so as to expand its activities in the trade and investment spheres of Arab countries, and accepting new Arab and international banks' participation in the group's capital fund so as to increase the branches of these banks in the world and insure the presence of Arab banks in areas where there are no branches.

The banks of Arab countries participatein this group which has branches in all international monetary and financial centers.

PEACE COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARTS FOR UNGA SESSION

JN271407Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May--'Abd al-Fattah Amin, member of the presidium of the National Council for Peace and Solidarity in Iraq, left Baghdad for New York at noon today to join the council's delegation to the meetings of the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament.

In a predeparture statement, Amin stated that these meetings acquire a special significance because they represent a world gathering against armament and the production of the neutron and atomic weapons.

He added that these meetings are a good opportunity to expose the U.S. role in arming the Zionist entity.

HUSAYN OUTLINES JORDAN'S POLICY IN AL-AQSA INTERVIEW

JN271616Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that Jordan, to the best of its capabilities and resources, will continue to stand fast and will remain committed to the just Arab rights and to the legitimate Palestinian rights. His majesty also asserted that Jordan will never hesitate to confront anything that would harm Arab dignity or land.

In an interview granted to the magazine AL-AQSA on the occasion of Independence and Army Day, His Majesty King Husayn said: We are endeavoring with our Arab brothers to build intrinsic Arab power in the military, political, economic and information domains so that the nation can confront its enemies abroad and overcome its domestic problems.

His Majesty King Husayn added: Our duty makes it incumbent upon us in this country, as a frontline country with the Israeli enemy, to exert continued efforts to build our military force in the best possible way so that this force will be the shield of the nation and the symbol of steadfastness. This will enable us always to be prepared to defend the homeland and the objectives of the Arab nation, his majesty added.

Speaking about the convening of an Arab summit conference in light of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, his majesty said: We have called for an Arab summit conference. We have also proposed a program to serve as a basis for the summit meetings. Most of the fraternal Arab countries have responded to this call. However, acute differences among certain Arab countries continue to obstruct the convening of a summit conference. I hope that we will overcome all these obstacles soon so that the conference will be convened to confront the challenges of the current stage of our nation's history and to draw up a unified Arab strategy based on the building of intrinsic Arab power and a return to the joint Arab action with the aim of facing the future in a better way. This has always been our expectation. Events have proved the soundness of our views, analysis and stand.

His Majesty King Husayn greeted the Jordanian armed forces. He said: I send my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the brothers in the armed forces on the occasion of their day, Jordan's day. They are the shield of our homeland and the symbol of its fathers and its steadfastness. Our Arab army is an extension of the army of the great Arab revolution led by the late Husayn ibn 'Ali to achieve Arab freedom and Arab unity and to defend Arab land and dignity.

AMMAN REPORTS HUSAYN'S STATEMENT TO CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JN291929Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Middle East faces a disturbed situation if peace efforts in the area fail. In a statement to the newspaper CHICAGO TRIBUNE, he stressed that peace cannot be achieved if Israel does not change its current stand. He further said: Israel's military might has led to an imbalance of forces in the Middle East, a state which can be rectified only when the Israelis know that their interest lies in peace. This would put the area on the road to peace.

His Majesty stressed that the Arab countries have done all they can to establish a just peace in the Middle East. The next step must be taken by Israel. He rejected Begin's plan concerning self-rule in the West Bank. He said that a temporary settlement is impossible as long as Israel continues to build settlements in the occupied Arab land and insists on keeping them.

His majesty said that Jordan does not offer itself as a replacement [badilan] for Palestinians. He stressed the need for the Palestinian people to participate in any efforts aimed at solving the conflict in the Middle East.

In answer to a question on the possibility of Jordan's accepting the administration of West Bank affairs for 5 years, after which the Palestinian people would participate in determining their future, his majesty said: I have heard such proposals. I believe that the Palestinians themselves must decide their fate and future. Before discussing such proposals we must ask whether the Israelis are ready to withdraw from these lands.

Concluding his statement, his majesty said that the Arab countries must rebuild and reorganize their intrinsic forces in order to face the situation in the area with a unified Arab stand.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON PRINCE HASAN'S VISIT TO POLAND

JN261830Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 78 JN

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan has concluded his visit to Poland. A press statement has been issued at the end of the 3-day visit. The statement points out that his highness met with the chairman of the Polish State Council, the premier, the deputy chairman of the State Council and high-ranking officials. An exchange of views was conducted on Jordanian-Polish relations and other international topics.

The two sides stressed their commitment to the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among countries irrespective of their political and social systems.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, the two sides expressed their mutual concern over Israel's aggressive stand and expansionist policy toward the Arab countries. They condemned its recent occupation of southern Lebanon.

The Jordanian and Polish sides reiterated their countries' belief in the need to achieve a total, peaceful and lasting settlement in the Middle East based on the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and on the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future and establish their state. This settlement should insure the security and independence of all states in the area.

Returns to Amman

JN292025Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat returned to Amman this evening following their visit to Poland, Austria and Switzerland. The crown prince and princess Tharwat were met by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and a number of high ranking officials.

MENA CITES PALESTINIAN ON RECENT PLO-LEBANESE MEETING

NC261047Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 27 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 26 May--A leading Palestinian source has said that the arrangements agreed upon during the joint meeting between Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the Palestinian resistance command 2 nights ago aim at removing any pretexts which Israel might resort to if it wanted to delay its withdrawal from the whole of southern Lebanon on 13 June.

In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, published today, the Palestinian source said that the arrangements do not touch upon the agreements or on a new formula for the implementation of the agreeements concluded between Lebanon and the resistance.

The Palestinian source said that at the meeting, some members of the Lebanese side proposed to the Palestinian side ending the armed presence south of the Al-Litani river--a matter which conflicts with the agreements. However, the source added, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO members drew attention to this point and emphasized that the armed Palestinian presence had existed there before UNIFIL entered the area.

The Palestinian source added that 'Arafat had pointed out that the United Nations itself did not officially ask him to withdraw from the area south of Al-Litani. The source said that the PLO leader had refused to confine the Palestinian presence to the north of Al-Litani because this is an Israeli condition. However, the source further said that the Palestinian resistance had expressed readiness to regulate and control its presence south of Al-Litani, to strengthen coordination with UNIFIL and to halt armed infiltration and operations in the rear lines so as not to give Israel an excuse for suspending its withdrawal.

The source said: On this basis, agreement was reached to withdraw the volunteers from south of Al-Litani and to remove all armed manifestations from nonmilitary positions and towns, in accordance with the Palestinian statement which was issued after the meeting with Dr Salim al-Huss.

Meanwhile, the chief of the PLO information department, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, has said that all reports about regulating the Palestinian presence on a new basis different from that of the Cairo agreement, the formation of a unified Palestinian army that would operate with the Lebanese authorities as an allied army and the elimination of the other Palestinian rights are unfounded.

FATAH, GOVERNMENT REACH 'TACIT' AGREEMENT

NC261630Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1542 GMT 26 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 26 May-- MENA has learned that the Fatah leadership has issued orders to its elements in southern Lebanon to stop infiltrating behind UN lines. Palestinian officials are also holding contacts with Lebanese security officials in Tyre and with the UNIFIL command to withdraw elements that have infiltrated from the uncontrolled areas.

These steps are the outcome of a tacit agreement reached between Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the Palestinian resistance leaders at a meeting held the day before yesterday.

The Palestinian statement issued following the meeting referred only to the resistance's readiness to facilitate the UNIFIL mission. The statement did not refer to this tacit agreement to stop acts of infiltration and to enable Lebanese security forces to fill the security vacuum in the areas to be evacuated by Israel in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Political quarters in Beirut have expressed apprehension that this agreement will meet obstacles in the wake of the announcement by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that it will not abide by any cease-fire in southern Lebanon.

These quarters note that this Palestinian-Lebanese understanding comes at a time when inter-Palestinian differences have increased. The rejectionist fronts have sent a memorandum to Fatah demanding the formation of a collective Palestinian command. The rejectionist fronts have also accused Fatah of adopting unilateral decisions.

PALESTINIAN COMMAND TO REMOVE ARMED ELEMENTS

NC291244Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 29 May--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has said that the Palestinian revolution command will remove all armed elements from all parts of Lebanon and will not undertake any military action across the Lebanese borders with Israel, such as firing rockets from Lebanese territory.

Khalaf said that the resistance is prepared to correct all its mistakes concerning the the contraventions that have been committed in the application of the Cairo agreement and it will be committed to the precise application of the agreement.

In a statement to the Beirut English-language magazine MONDAY MORNING, published today, Khalaf said that the Palestinian resistance must cease all excesses in the south and throughout Lebanon because these excesses are harmful to the Palestinian revolution. Khalaf said that the Palestinians are ready to send three-fourths of their forces to Jordan if King Husayn will accept them.

Khalaf emphasized that the Palestinian resistance rejects the cancellation of the Cairo agreement and the disarming of the Palestinians. He said that the Palestinian revolution is prepared to do all that the Lebanese Government wishes in this context to preserve Lebanese sovereignty and to spare it any hostile actions by Israel.

Khalaf rejected the idea that the Lebanese crisis cannot be solved as long as there is an armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He said: The Palestinian presence will not prevent a Lebanese detente and we will organize our presence there in a manner acceptable to Lebanon.

Khalaf concluded his statement by saying that the Palestinian fedayeen had received training in the Soviet Union and Cuba. He said that there are no Cuban soldiers in Lebanon and that none of the socialist countries had participated with the Palestinian revolution forces in Lebanon because the Palestinian revolution did not need their participation.

'ARAFAT FORMS SPECIAL FORCE TO COORDINATE WITH UNIFIL

JN291657Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 May--Palestinian sources here today report that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has completed the formation of a 500-man force entrusted with the task of coordinating cooperation with UNIFIL. The sources say that this force, which was formed during the weekend, has received instructions from 'Arafat to intervene immediately to assist UNIFIL in striking against any fedayeen attempt to infiltrate the territory occupied by the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon. The force is commanded by Lt Col 'Azmi az-Zughayyar, a Palestinian officer known for his personal loyalty to 'Arafat.

The sources further add that the formation of this force is in line with 'Arafat's current visit to Damascus and his talks there with the leader of the Syrian regime.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the front of Palestinian forces rejecting capitulationist solutions condemned the PLO command's readiness to stop armed operations in southern Lebanon. The front said that this constitutes a new political stand on the part of certain Palestinian quarters reflecting the abandonment of the objectives of the revolution in the interests of the rightist Lebanese forces.

UNIFIL SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC291444Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Text] A UNIFIL spokesman has stated that despite daily infiltration attempts, the situation in the UNIFIL operations area can be considered stable as far as the UN forces are concerned. Efforts to tackle infiltrations are succeeding day after day.

At a press conference held at the UN Information Center in Beirut this morning, the UNIFIL spokesman said that the area now under the control of UNIFIL is 17-km long and 40-km wide. Some 4,600 UN troops maintain security in this area.

The spokesman pointed out that most of the infiltrators have been detained and either disarmed or taken outside the area. However, some infiltrators were able to penetrate behind UNIFIL lines. A group of them took up positions near the villages of Ma'rakah, (Al-Hafiliyah) and Duris in the sector under the control of the Nigerian contingent. Another group took up positions between Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and Kawkabah in the sector under the control of the Norwegian contingent. He said the UN forces discovered the positions of the two groups that infiltrated into the area and surrounded them. Some 65 infiltrators have already left the area. He said 15 infiltrators are still in the sector of the Norwegian contingent, and some others are in the sector of the Nigerian contingent. Efforts are still being made to have them to withdraw from the area.

The spokesman complained about exchanges of fire between Qal'at ash-Shaqif and the villages of the Marj 'Uyun area. He described this as a daily occurence. He stressed that the UN forces are doing their utmost to fulfill their mission and establish security and help Lebanon regain its full sovereignty and control over the area.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that no one will be permitted to carry arms in the area other than those authorized by the Lebanese Government.

Regarding the Cairo agreement, the UNIFIL spokesman said that this is something between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian organization.

He said Israel will withdraw by the specified date and that contacts are continuing to insure the control of the Lebanese state over the area after the Israeli withdrawal.

MENA: CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH HONORED

NC291258Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 29 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 29 May--There has been a complete cease-fire in southern Lebanon since the recent Palestinian statement was issued. The statement stipulated that all military activities should cease in southern Lebanon.

After touring the area, the MENA correspondent reports that in addition to the calm which is prevailing in the areas of Tyre and the western sector in general, all shelling has ceased from the strategic Qal'at ash-Shaqif, which is some 4 kilometers from the town of An-Nabatiyah and from where artillery fire had been directed at Israeli settlements.

Palestinian sources have said that absolute and clear orders for a complete cease-fire have been issued and that warnings have been given to elements which do not obey these orders. It appears that so far these orders have been followed to the letter. However, armed elements have not been completely removed from the town of An-Nabatiyah. Armed men are still seen walking around the town and offices of Palestinian organizations are still there. Also, the Arab Army of Lebanon has a barrier at one entrance to the town.

However, Palestinian sources have emphasized that these things will disappear when understanding is reached within the committee which is supervising the program of removing the armed elements from all parts of southern Lebanon.

It is worth noting that the tripartite committee, which includes Lebanese and Palestinian officers as well as representatives of the Arab deterrent forces, will hold an important meeting in Sidon today to discuss the matter. For the first time a limited security force has arrived in An-Nabatiyah within the framework of the agreement which was reached between Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the Palestinian command. This agreement stipulates that the Lebanese security forces return to all the southern areas and that all armed elements be removed.

In this context, the Lebanese authorities have requested that armed men be withdrawn from the An-Nabatiyah barracks and that the barracks be handed over to the legitimate authority. The barracks are currently under the control of a unit of the Arab Army of Lebanon, which is part of the Lebanese army which became divided during the 2-year war in Lebanon.

The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR says today that this morning Israel fired flares over the French positions and fortifications. The reason for this Israeli action is not known.

The paper adds that passengers of two Cypriot ships who arrived in Tyre yesterday reported that Israeli boats intercepted the two ships on the high seas and searched their cargos of foodstuffs and goods which were being shipped for Lebanese merchants.

DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTS SYRIAN-ERITREAN TALKS

JN271402Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office, received in his office at noon today Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Eritrean Revolutionary Council and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front, and 'Abdallah Sulayman, member of the Revolutionary Council and head of the front's Foreign Relations Office. The meeting was attended by the director of the Foreign Relations Office in the National Command.

During the meeting, Nasir presented a review of the current situation through which the Eritrean revolution is passing, particularly in the political and military domains. Nasir then spoke about the situation in Eritrea and the battles which are raging in a number of areas. He asserted that the Eritrean fighters are fiercely repulsing the Ethiopian forces, who are trying to strike at the Eritrean revolution and regain some of the liberated areas and positions.

Nasir added that the Ethiopian enemy had pounded several populated areas, killing a number of innocent people, including children, women and the elderly.

Nasir and Sulayman expressed the entire Eritrean people's appreciation for the honorable struggling stands of the Ba'th Party and its revolutionary government in Syria under President Struggler Hafiz al-Asad and for the boundless support given to the Eritrean revolution.

Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh praised the outstanding victories being scored by the Eritrean fighters, with high morale and the spirit of struggle, in their confrontation of the Ethiopian military forces who are striking against the Eritrean revolution. Comrade Sayyagh denounced the brutal shelling of certain towns and villages which had led to the martyrdom of a number of innocent civilians.

Dr Sayyagh then dealt with the need to achieve unity among the factions of the Eritrean revolution in order to serve their common objectives in the Eritrean struggle. Comrade Sayyagh reaffirmed the stand of the Ba'th Party and its government in Syria under President Leader Hafiz al-Asad in supporting and backing the Eritrean revolution until the rest of the territories is liberated from the Ethiopian enemy and until complete stability is achieved.

LA LIBERATION: BA'THISTS, COMMUNISTS, NASIRITES ARRESTED

JN271105Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 27 May--The newspaper LA LIBERATION published here today reports that well over 70 strugglers have been rearrested by the Syrian authorities. The paper explains that these strugglers belong to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Syrian Communist Party, and the Nasirite movement. The paper points out that the Syrian authorities had released these strugglers 2 months ago, but arrested them again.

The paper also reveals that a Syrian painter called 'Abd at-Taqi and his wife were arrested and that they are being tortured by the authorities.

IRAQI 'THREATS' AGAINST POLITICS IN IRAQI ARMED FORCES SCORED

JN282032Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] The authorities of the Iraqi regime have threatened to execute anybody who dares to play any role inside the Iraqi armed forces. The authorities also strongly warned their political allies against exploiting the internal situation in Iraq. This warning comes after the suspect rightist regime's recent series of executions of 12 Iraqi citizens who dared to object to the regime's repressive measures.

Most Arab and foreign news agencies, quoting their political correspondents in Iraq on the situation, say that the power crisis in Iraq is taking place in three directions: the first is among the ruling factions inside the regime in Baghdad; the second is between the regime and the other political parties inside Iraq; and the third is the aggravation of the crisis resulting from the antagonism between the regime and the popular movements which are daily escalating their opposition to the measures taken by the regime against national mass activities.

The threats of the Iraqi regime were reported today by the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Baghdad regime. These threats are the final link in a chain of physical liquidations carried out by the regime inside the Iraqi Army. It was reported that Capt Akram 'Abd al-Majid was recently assassinated. 'Abd al-Majid was an officer in the Special Forces stationed in Mosul. It was also reported that an army major in Iraq by the name of Hikmat has been transferred to the hospital after he was wounded in the head. News agencies say that those who assassinated 'Abd al-Majid and who tried to assassinate Hikmat are recruits from the town of Takrit, the town of Saddam Husayn at-Takriti.

Political observors link this crisis in the regime with the regime's dubious stand toward the fateful battle against the Zionist enemy.

PRIME MINISTER READS GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

JN292045Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session at 1800 today under its speaker, Mahmud Hadid. The session was attended by the prime minister and the other ministers. During this session, the prime minister read a government policy statement which defined the country's policy in various spheres.

Prime Minister al-Halabi pointed out in his statement that in its program the government has set priorities for work and achievement linked with the main goal it is trying to achieve, namely: rapid and continuous progress in economic and social development and the building of the defense capability of this country which, due to the circumstances surrounding the Arab homeland, is assuming great national responsibilities in order to become an impregnable stronghold of struggle and a strategic frontline position for confrontation and steadfastness.

In the sphere of Arab policy, the statement says that the country has a pioneering role in the national and unity struggle and that our country's Arab policy aims essentially at achieving the following:

First, strenghthening the struggle for unity with all the means in our power.

Second, achieving Arab unity;

Third, strengthening Arab solidarity;

Fourth, opposing any defeatist policy which aims at disposing of the Palestine question and entrenching Zionist occupation;

Fifth, strengthening the means of struggle of the Arab masses and expanding the base of confrontation and steadfastness in order to enable the Arab nation to confront the various Zionist and imperialist conspiracies and challenges;

Sixth, considering the Palestine question as the main cause of Arab Syria; and

Seventh, continuing the struggle on all fronts to liberate the occupied Arab territories from the aggressive Zionist forces.

In the sphere of international policy, the statement defines Syria's basic aims, which are summed up as follows:

First, working continuously to consolidate our presence everywhere in the world in order to explain the Arab cause to the world public, expose Zionism, isolate the Israeli enemy internationally and expose the enemy's aggressive and expanionist designs;

Second, opposing all manifestations and methods of aggression as well as racist trends, of which Zionism is the worst and most dangerous form; and also combatting imperialism and participating in all international forums and organizations to gain the greatest support possible for our national issues;

Third, supporting national liberation movements and backing peoples' struggles against all forms of economic and political subservience, and considering the Arab liberation movement as part of peoples' struggle for their patriotic and national aims;

Fourth, strengthening our relations with the nonalined states and consolidating the ties of friendship and cooperation with the USSR and the other Socialist Bloc countries, and also developing our relations with the Islamic and African states; and

Fifth, continuing the ties of cooperation with the European countries with whom we have ties of friendship and cooperation and trying, whenever possible, to establish new friendly ties to serve our domestic and national interests.

In the sphere of domestic policy, the statement stresses the government's main concern with developing the structure of the state and the public sector and building social, economic and political institutions which influence and are influenced by the interacting factors inherent in the material and moral conditions of Syrian society. The government is also concerned with establishing a modern state along modern lines which can directly assume the responsibility of developing and following up on the development of society. The statement defines the bases which the government will follow in implementing the domestic and national program. These are summed up as follows:

1. Work in the next phase will be a continuation of the work which Syria began 7 years ago.

2. Political stability has been the main characteristic of Syrian life. This stability has its rules and bases, most important of which is continuing the positive interaction between the people and the government.

3. National unity [al-wahdah al-wataniyah] is an expression of political stability and its impact on all walks of life. Strengthening the role of the progressive national front and the popular organizations further consolidates national unity and strengthens its efficacy.

4. The continuation of work to entrench freedom in the country and providing the principles of this freedom is an affirmation that the spirit of brotherhood among the various sectors of the people is the best way to confront the problems which face us and achieve progress and impregnability.

5. The system of local administration is an expression of the popular democratic principles. The application of the second phase of this system, the issuance of laws regulating its tasks, and the appointment of more specialists in this system, are essential steps to consolidate the principles of popular participation in the government.

6. The principle of the sovereignty of the law is an important and vital principle for the regulation of human relations and the rebirth of creative and organized initiatives.

7. The modernization of legislation regulating labor and accurate planning for the working and productive forces are two essential matters for tying the development of productive manpower to factors of economic and social modernization in relations between labor and production.

8. Internal, economic, social, food and health security are objective conditions for the stability of the elements of productive and creative life. This also consolidates the concepts of liberty and effective democratic administration--the real bastion of a democratic society.

9. The president's slogan "There Is No Difference Between One Citizen and Another As Long As He Serves His Homeland," provides a major heading for the exercise of responsibility. It is a general principle for equal opportunities calling on us to use precision in placing each well-deserving and qualified person in the right position.

10. Development of defensive capabilities is an extremely important objective in order to defend our homeland and nation in the circumstances through which our country and the Arab nation are passing. The armed forces are the shield of the homeland and our pride. Continuing to develop the armed forces in quality and quantity is an essential objective.

11. The classification of state positions and productive sectors and the work relations in them, and the modernization of performance are major steps needed to complete the concepts of a modern state, capable of shouldering national and pan-Arab tasks and the burdens of development.

12. Continuing the previous economic course and seeking to remove the negative aspects which appeared in practice and which prevented this course from achieving all the objectives that were expected of it are basic principles for work in the coming stage.

13. Deepending and expanding the public sector as a pioneering sector in leading the national economy; establishing a joint sector and seeking to promote its success; activating the private sector to perform what has been planned for; and achieving the best operation of our agricultural and industrial projects--these constitute the road to realizing integrated and rapid development.

14. The development of the countryside, the distribution of productive activities in it, and the guaranteeing of services to it are basic tasks of our economic and social plans.

15. Concentrating on the agricultural investment plan and giving priority to agriculture--the timetables for which should be implemented accurately, giving rapid results--are major objectives of the government.

16. The tackling of current and emergency problems in the field of services and utilities--such as the problem of housing, guarantees of food and regulation of a sound policy in the domain of wages and prices--is an essential step in labor.

17. The development of the fields of education, culture and information, as well as the formulation of a comprehensive policy to combat illiteracy, is important to overcome current problems.

18. Drawing up a health policy in the field of preventive medicine and increasing health services are basic tasks in the activities of organizations employed in this field.

19. The principle of control over the implementation of projects for the purpose of achieving their strategic development objectives is a basic rule of the government policy in this field.

20. Protecting the environment from pollution and taking the necessary steps to insure this protection are a basic task.

The prime minister stressed that these are the main principles from which the government's internal policy stems in carrying out its general program, plans and projects in order to achieve the required results.

The statement pointed out that the experience of local administration is still in its early stages. Work will continue gradually and in light of the president's instructions to strengthen this experience and to apply it to the administrative units below governorates. The statement said that the success of the experience of local administration will help give a model form of a popular democratic system which the government will do its utmost to expand it in all fields.

The statement concentrated on the need to establish formulas and methods that will insure increasing private capital invested in the various economic sectors. The statement stressed the need to activate the private sector and to eliminate obstacles so that it will play its role completely, as planned, in various economic sectors. The statement stressed the need to find ways that will insure that this sector shoulders its responsibilities.

Referring to agriculture, the statement said that this issue has priority in the government's future plans and tasks in order to insure the highest possible production and to achieve an organized course for the projects of the fourth 5-year development plan.

The statement pointed to the fields of oil, mineral resources, foreign trade, financial and bank establishments and Syria's financial policy. It also gave attention to domestic trade, supply and prices.

The statement also included the government's plan for services, the establishment of utilities, educational and cultural policy and social affairs, labor and legislation.

Al-Halabi stressed that building a modern and strong Syria is a great goal. Every citizen in this homeland will surmount all obstacles and challenges to achieve this goal. Our basic motto is a comprehensive, expanding, developmental revolution to build a free, strong, unified and stable homeland, a homeland that will confront any enemy who has ambitions for its territory and resources, a homeland that with its force and independent will can remain steadfast under the hardest conditions and confront any national deviation with principled confidence and firm faith in its national and pan-Arab aims.

Al-Halabi said that now we face a new stage in this country, which is deep-rooted in its pan-Arab affiliation and nationalist stands. We are standing in one line, citizens and officials, so that we will raise high the banner of struggle with relentless determination and, under a far-sighted leadership, we will conquer all negative aspects and impediments, manifestations of backwardness and plots. We will bear with the firmness of loyal strugglers all the burdens and tasks to build a socialist democratic society in which free and responsible men will carry out the tasks of the new stage with complete faith, truth and harmony in order to make modern Syria a source of national and pan-Arab pride and a torch of freedom for the Arab generation looking forward to achieve its aims of unity, freedom and socialism.

The prime minister said: We in Arab Syria will continue the pioneering experiment with the help of God and the people. The new elements of firm popular building, economic progress, social liberation and modernization will stem from Syria. By depending on the capabilities of our good and noble people and on their good fruitful land, we will lay firm foundations for the development of defense in the economic, social, political and military confrontation in face of all Zionist and imperialist defiance. In this homeland, which is full of resources, we will strengthen our national, democratic popular experience so that it will be a strategic force to achieve the aims of the Arab nation. Our people, who are aware of and realize all the conditions surrounding these issues, will win the coming round in the battle of development, construction and modernization. They will necessarily win the battle of steadfastness and confrontation.

At the end of his statement, Al-Halabi called for action with hopeful hearts and energies unleashed, for creative work and confidence in the future which we will make with our hands and our plans, thus fulfilling the call of the president and leader, who said: I call on you to work in the coming stage as we have done in the past stage--one hand and heart full of love and confidence--so as to make this country an example of love, equality and justice and a homeland in which its sons take pride and are happy. I call on you to make this country an example of progress and prosperity and a source of strength and benefit for us and for our Arab brothers.

AIR, GROUND FORMATIONS CARRY OUT TACTICAL EXERCISE

JN281348Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Under instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and armed forces, one of our combat formations carried out a tactical exercise today with the participation of the air forces. The exercise was attended by Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and armed forces, and certain officers of the General Command of the Army and armed forces and the commanders of the combat formations.

On arrival at the site of the exercise, Mustafa Talas shook hands with the senior officers who were there to greet him. He then heard an explanation of the integrated stages of the tactical exercise.

The formation units managed to destroy the mock enemy's defense frontlines and its support points and to repulse mock enemy attacks. The units also managed to occupy the enemy's defense line and developed an offensive behind enemy lines.

At end of the exercise, Mustafa Talas praised the efforts being made to raise the battle readiness of our armed forces and to strengthen their combat ability. He stressed his concern for continuing action and efforts to keep our armed forces ready to wage the battle of honor to liberate our occupied land and restore the usurped rights of our people.

WRITERS, JOURNALISTS CONDEMN AS-SADAT'S MEASURES

JN282156Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] The Syrian Writers Union and the Syrian Journalists Union have condemned the campaign of oppression and liquidation launched by the As-Sadat regime against the writers and journalists in Arab Egypt. This move is part of the regime's plan to liquidate the progressive and patriotic elements opposed to As-Sadat's ill-fated visit to occupied Jerusalem, his capitulationist line and his plots with the Zionist enemy and imperialism to destroy the Palestinian cause and abort the socialist, unionist, and free Arab struggle.

In a statement issued today, the two unions said that what is being done on the Egyptian Arab territory in terms of humiliation, surrender and capitulation is not representative of the great Egyptian people who were victorious in the war of Suez and the October War of liberation.

CUBA SIGNS TRADE EXCHANGE PROTOCOL IN DAMASCUS

JN271450Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 27 May--A protocol on promoting trade between Syria and Cuba was signed at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade this morning. The protocol was signed on the Syrian side by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and on the Cuban side by Marcelo Fernandez Font, minister of foreign trade.

Delegation Leaves

JN271451Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 27 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 27 May--The Cuban economic delegation led by Marcelo Fernandez Font, minister of foreign trade, left Damascus at noon today at the conclusion of a 1-week visit to Syria. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the members of the Syrian delegation to the negotiations.

ASSEMBLY'S ARAB, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETS

JN291610Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 May 78 JN

[Text] The Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly held a meeting at noon today during which it listened to a report submitted by the committee chairman on the recent activities of the committee in both the Arab and international fields. The committee chairman also talked about the role played by the Syrian parliamentary delegations which participated in various parliamentary conferences abroad and what they have achieved for the Arab cause, especially at the last Barcelona parliamentary conference.

The committee then discussed the 65th International Parliamentary Conference, which will be held in Bonn 5-13 September and the need to prepare for this important conference, as the topic of the Middle East will be one of the top subjects on the agenda. A review was then made of the working plan of the Arab and Foreign Affairs' Committee for the future. This plan is aimed at expanding the scope of Syrian parliamentary action on both the Arab and international levels. Some members of the committee put forward constructive proposals in this regard.

OFFICIAL MAKES STATEMENT ON NONALINED CONFERENCE

JN251653Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 May 78 JN

[Text] Syria's position on pan-Arab issues and political developments met with a positive response from the delegations participating in the ministerial conference of the coordination bureau of nonalined countries which was held in Havana 15-20 May.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the final statement issued by the coordination bureau of the nonalined countries condemned Israel's expansionist policy and its refusal to implement the UN principles and resolutions. He stressed that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East conflict, and that any disregard for this as the basis of a just peace will not serve peace but will open the door to attempts, led by the United States, to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The nonalined ministerial conference will hold its next meeting in Belgrade in June.

PRIME MINISTER CONFERS WITH ITALIAN TRADE MINISTER

JN282138Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 May 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi received Mr Rinaldo Ossola, Italian minister of foreign trade in Damascus this evening. The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Italian ambassador in Damascus. The prime minister discussed with the Italian minister the relations between the two countries, especially in the economic field. They reviewed the projects being implemented in Syria by Italian companies and the progress of these projects. They also discussed the talks which are being held by the Italian delegation and the need to promote cooperative relations between the two countries in all fields.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya also met with Mr Ossola and discussed the economic relations between the two countries.

BEGIN ATTENDS YIZHAQ NAVON'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

TA291817 [Editorial Report TA] Jerusalem domestic radio in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 29 May, Jerusalem domestic television service in Hebrew at 1615 GMT, and Tel Aviv IDF radio in Hebrew at 1605 GMT begin live coverage of the swearing-in ceremony of President Yizhaq Navon from the Knesset in Jerusalem. The television broadcast is a special color relay.

At 1615 GMT President-Elect Navon arrives at the Knesset and is greeted by an honor guard. At 1625 GMT President Qazir arrives, also being met by an honor guard.

At 1635 GMT the swearing-in ceremony in the Knesset begins. Prime Minister Begin is among those reported present. The speaker, Yizhaq Shamir, opens the session calling upon President Qazir to deliver his speech. Qazir reviews his term of office, thanking the Knesset for its cooperation. At 1650 GMT Yizhaq Navon is sworn in by the speaker of the Knesset and then called upon to deliver his speech.

His opening remarks deal with the spiritual challenges that face Israel. He reviews the cultural, military, technological and economic achievements of the state over the past 30 years, predicting at the same time a great deal of hard work ahead in closing the social gap.

Navon says that "the desire for peace of the people of Israel requires no proof. I know of no party in Israel that does not yearn for peace nor do I know of any Israeli Government, neither in the past nor at present, which has not been and is not prepared to make sacrifices in order to achieve peace." He says that the reception President as-Sadat received in Jerusalem and on his return to Cairo shows that both countries yearn for peace. "There are no grounds to the claim that Israel has not reciprocated the Egyptian president's move." He says that there was no justification for the cessation of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. "I call upon the Egyptian president to resume the negotiations. The road that still has to be traveled is shorter than the road that has already been covered. Too many hopes have been planted in the hearts of our two countries for them to be disappointed. I also appeal to the leaders of the neighboring countries to join the supreme effort aimed at finding a peace settlement."

Navon calls for increased efforts in encouraging immigration to Israel through ceaseless work toward alleviating the plight of Jews living in countries from which they cannot emigrate freely or where they cannot practice their religion.

Navon calls upon the nation to work toward creating a better quality of life in uprooting crime and violence. "For 30 years we have toiled to build the state. Now we have to concentrate on building the people."

At 1710 GMT President Navon ends his speech. At 1715 GMT the television relay ends as does that of Tel Aviv IDF radio. Jerusalem domestic radio goes over to the president's residence and continues broadcasting background material and short human interest interviews with former President Qazir, his wife, and other guests. The broadcast ends at 1752 GMT.

MA'ARIV: JERUSALEM SOURCES CONFIRM HASSAN LETTER

TA281717Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 May 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Jerusalem sources have confirmed that a letter from Hassan II, the king of Morocco, was given to Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The letter was handed over via UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim.

The letter was reported by the Moroccan ambassador to Kuwait. He added--so the news agencies reported--that King Hassan had informed Menahem Begin that he is abandoning his support for President as-Sadat's peace initiative because it is not bearing fruit.

However, Jerusalem sources, who confirmed that a letter had been received from the king of Morocco, said this morning that they knew nothing of any such paragraph mentioning the abandonment by the king of Morocco of his support for Egypt's peace initiative.

The director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, confirmed that the letter from King Hassan had been given to Menahem Begin. He said this 2 weeks ago to French radio, when he was in France.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT: JERUSALEM KNOWS NOTHING OF HASSAN LETTER

TA281718Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 May 78 p 8 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] Jerusalem knows nothing about a letter sent recently by the king of Morocco to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, saying that his country had decided to go back on its support for As-Sadat's peace initiative.

The letter was reported yesterday by the Moroccan ambassador to Kuwait, Abdelhadi Sbihi, at a press conference. Sbihi said that the letter had been given to Begin via UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

It is reported from Jerusalem that the last letter sent by King Hassan to the prime minister was about 2 months ago. In that letter, which was handed over via Waldheim, King Hassan expressed his concern at the IDF forces' entry into southern Lebanon and demanded their immediate withdrawal. In that letter Hassan stressed that the entry of the IDF forces harmed the peace process.

The fact of the sending of that letter was published at the time by Morocco itself.

Since then no further letter from King Hassan has reached Jerusalem.

The announcement by the Moroccan ambassador in Kuwait said that King Hassan made his decision after he realized that President as-Sadat's peace initiative "was not bearing any fruit."

It is in the meantime reported from Beirut that King Hassan has invited a Palestinian to join him on a state visit he is to make to the United States. King Hassan wrote to Yasir 'Arafat asking him to appoint such a representative, because he believed that on his visit to Washington he would be able to "break the ice in U.S.-PLO relations."

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL ISSUES

TA261836Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 May 78 TA

["Weekly Column" interview with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon by Gid'on Lev Ari--time and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Agriculture Minister, has, in your opinion, a change occurred in the total balance in the Middle East since the moment the resolution was adopted in Washington to supply aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] Certainly, although this is nothing new. It can be pointed out that since the end of the Yom Kippur war the United States has continued supplying--by virtue of having actually become the chief supplier of weapons to the military infrastructure in the Middle East--it has become the chief supplier. Between 1974 and 1976 the arms supplied to the Middle East by the United States amounted to $11 billion. The Soviet Union supplied in that period weapons worth $6 billion; England and France supplied $3-billion worth of arms. This means that actually since the Yom Kippur war there has been a race between the Soviet Union and the United States in arming the Middle East, with the United States, I regret to say, leading. It may perhaps be said ironically that the only detente existing in the world today is in the Middle East, where both parties are pouring in weapons. The recent resolution, of course, makes the issue even more grave. I would propose to stress perhaps--even though I certainly do not minimize the military gravity of the matter--I'd like to stress more what this thing actually bodes or indicates for the future.

The process of supplying weapons is a continuing process. This is not a one-time operation. It will not end with the supply today of the quantity of aircraft that has been agreed upon. We are entering an era of highly sophisticated technology and weapons and, in my view, the State of Israel, the Government of Israel must spearhead the fight against the supply of weapons. To this end the Jewish nation in the United States should and can be mobilized, because on this subject a full consensus can definitely be reached. In my opinion it is imperative to join this struggle not only because of the modern arms reaching the Middle East but because, in my view, this is a testing point. The Americans are today putting us to a test. According to our reactions on the subject of arms, the Americans will definitely decide on the manner of their future actions: more pressure on Israel or less pressure on Israel. If Israel today does not head the struggle, if it does not express its view unambiguously on this subject, if it does not enlist the Jewish nation, we shall in my view soon be confronted with pressures in other spheres. Hence the problems of the weapons is over and above the purely military subject, the balance of power, which in themselves are undoubtedly serious. For this reason, in my view, we should speak up firmly and loudly on this subject.

I'd like to take this opportunity to address a call to the Egyptians. A peace agreement with Egypt is essential to both sides and every effort should be made to achieve it. The difficulties that have piled up in recent months are natural in view of the fact that an attempt is being made here to solve problems of 30-years' conflict. When As-Sadat arrived in Israel, he told me at the airport that in the Yom Kippur war he tried to seize or to capture me at the bridgehead across the Suez Canal. In meetings that took place later I told As-Sadat that he had now a rare opportunity to seize me or to capture me as a friend. I am glad that both sides--both Egypt and Israel--are now busy in an effort to capture the peace and to seize it by the horns. I repeat, saying also to As-Sadat, that this is the time to capture the peace. This is the time and this is the mission. I replied at that time to As-Sadat that I would be happy to visit Egypt as minister of agriculture in order to act jointly for the benefit of farmers in the two countries. I understand that the Egyptian president recently indeed complimented Israeli agriculture. Peace is the greatest thing that could happen to the two peoples, the Egyptian and the Israeli, in this generation. The Government of Israel and the Government of Egypt must continue the direct negotiations until we overcome all obstacles. I know and am convinced that we have things to offer, but this cannot be done via open microphones.

[Question] The question is whether we can today offer more than we proposed when the talks became stranded.

[Answer] The talks did not become stranded, the talks were simply broken off by the Egyptians; but afterwards we still kept maintaining contacts and contacts exist today. One cannot ignore the fact that for several months an Israeli military delegation has been sitting in Egypt. There are direct contacts.

Messages can be transmitted and answers from the Egyptians can be received. This is something that has not existed for 30 years. This is a long and extended process. Anyone demanding an immediate solution is, I think, only deferring the solution. These are difficult negotiations, in which every party, quite naturally, is taking care of its own interests and if--as in any other negotiations--one of the parties sees that a part of the people on the other side demand vigorously to conclude the deal immediately, the price rises. I think it should be understood that with its proposals Israel can go--Israel has gone--a very great distance. Israel actually--where Sinai is concerned--Israel declared explicitly that it will withdraw to the international frontier in Sinai. What can you expect beyond this?

[Question] Except for the Rafah approaches and Sharm ash-Shaykh.

[Answer] Israel has clearly announced that it will withdraw its forces to the international border and does not demand any sovereignty. One should not try to find fault with the Israeli plan. I suggest that everyone have a second look at the Israeli plan. Now...

[Question] Including the Rafah approaches?

[Answer] Since the contacts with the Egyptians began last year--there had been no contacts previously--Israel has not demanded the annexation of the Rafah approaches. Israel has proposed a settlement. This settlement was known to the Egyptians and the Americans even before the major talks began. It is possible to find a solution to this. A solution can certainly be found to this problem. In any case, it is worth remembering one thing: Israel has made far-reaching concessions. There is a red line beyond which Israel cannot withdraw, that is, the point beyond which Israel can no longer be responsible for its own security. Sometimes we should rely only on ourselves It may be worthwhile to note something in this connection. A few weeks ago I heard that a group of U.S. senators pointed out to President Carter that since the peace agreement regarding Vietnam was signed about a million Cambodians have been brutally executed and murdered. They asked President Carter to take some measures on the matter. Have you heard of any measures?

[Question] No.

[Answer] Nobody heard of any measures. It is true that as members of the Jewish people we know of and witnessed phenomena such as happened to us only 35 years ago. Somebody may say that this happened during a war, but we are witnesses to present events also. In other words, we cannot put ourselves and our fate in the hands of anyone else, not even those of our best friend. This is the red line beyond which Israel cannot withdraw.

[Question] Sir, Mr Agriculture Minister, you call on the Egyptian president to renew direct contact with the Israeli prime minister. Do you not think that various rumors or reports about the expropriation of lands in the territories drive peace farther from us?

[Answer] First I want to understand these reports. I think that the communications media are causing indescribable damage. There is a continuous consumption here: We consume ourselves and devour each other. Instead of facing external problems united, we are creating imaginary problems. Things have come to the point where two journalists or two radio and television correspondents can turn this country upside down, disrupt the normal routine of life, give misleading information which nobody even bothers to check. A few days ago, when that issue of absentee property was first publicized, HA'AREZ came out with a fierce attack on the chief of the Israeli Lands Administration and myself.

The HA'AREZ correspondents had not even troubled themselves to check whether the report was true. They did not take the trouble of asking whether I, for example, had anything to do with this issue. This is an issue which is outside my sphere and has nothing to do with me. In addition, this is something that has not even happened.

In other words, what I think we should all do is to restrain ourselves a little, to exercise more self-restraint. We find ourselves in a difficult situation in every respect. We are faced with difficult economic problems, we are faced with political developments that require hard decisions. This is not the pace of events that prevailed in the days of the previous government. It is a different pace with regard to political and other events. It did not happen during the rule of other governments either. I cannot remember a period of intensity of crucial and astonishing events such as the past year. A little calm and self-restraint are demanded of every one of us.

As for the issue of expropriation, there has been no change--and I am not saying this as the man responsible for this subject since I am not responsible for it--in the government's policy concerning absentee assets in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. There has been no change. Second, there is a government decision stating that settlements will be established on government land and not on expropriated land. There are government lands in Judaea and Samaria which are adequate for whatever Israel has planned, has carried out or wants to carry out. Therefore, I repeat--live and let live, stop harrassing with untruths. A minimum degree of decency and fairness requires that things should at least be checked. The national damage caused to the State of Israel today by the communications media is simply inconceivable.

[Question] Mr Sharon, is this an invention by the communications media? Is this the imagined picture of the communications media, or have the manipulations of politicians also contributed to this?

[Answer] It may be that politicians are also involved here. However, I would like to say one thing to the communications media: Check before writing and broadcasting things. Stop showing only the negative aspect of things all the time. There are so many positive things happening in Israel.

[Question] Mr Sharon, you are always trying to place the blame on the press, on the communications media. However, if nobody leaks things, nobody picks up the leaks. The question I am asking you again is whether we should not rather look for the guilty or the responsible elements in the political sphere?

[Answer] I certainly do not want to absolve the political sphere of guilt. I know of many things that were leaked to the press by political elements, including elements within the government itself, elements which expressed their negative view of plans which were approved by the government and which they themselves rejected. This was also the case in the past. The greatest damage on the issue of settlement was caused by people who objected to this issue and leaked things from the government. Their view was not accepted and thus the government's decision, expressing the view of the entire government, and thus represented them too. [as heard] Therefore, I do not free the politicians from responsibility. Politicians do not have to mean ministers necessarily....

[Question] Politicians may mean deputy ministers, for example.

[Answer] Deputy ministers also. Some of the remarks made recently may surely have been made at rather senior levels. However, what I said with regard to the press is: The press must check things. They should not rely on some report and publish it without checking first. Also, they should approach matters with a good, favorable intention let us say....

[Question] Let us try to be more specific for a moment. Who invented the affair of absentee properties?

[Answer] I do not know. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the remark on the matter of expropriations was not careful...

[Question] Whose remark?

[Answer] I turn to everybody: to the politicians to stop talking and to the correspondents to please check what they write. Check what you write and adopt a positive approach.

[Question] Do you think, Mr Sharon, that a journalist who is on the point of publishing something should think whether this will appeal to the Arabs or not, whether it will gladden them or not?

[Answer] In my opinion, the first thing that should be done is to write the truth, to present a correct picture of the situation. There are extraordinary, unusual achievements in Israel. These should not be pushed to the bottom lines of the newscasts.

COMMENTATOR ASSESSES CHANCES OF NEGOTIATIONS BREAKTHROUGH

TA281503Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 May 78 p 11 TA

[Shulamit Alloni commentary]

[Text] If the Cabinet of Israel and the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Congress had forgotten--along came the aircraft deal to remind them that the United States is not a crown colony of the Israeli empire and that Washington has interests in the area in addition to those connected with Israel and its security. Post factum, the members of the current cabinet are also beginning to cast doubts on the wisdom of the prime minister, Mr Begin, when he declared, on his first visit to the United States, that he and President Carter had agreed not to agree and that there was no necessity for a prior coordination on positions with the U.S. administration. It may be that had there been prior coordination, the deal would still have been carried out, but Israel would have gained by modern and sophisticated items of types which would not have been given to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Now these countries will have the same modern equipment which is in Israel's possession and of course this has something in it to cause concern and discomfort in our ranks. It appears to me that through new initiatives and a less fossilised and paralyzed way of thinking, it will be possible to arrive at a situation in which U.S. interests in the area are guaranteed and, nevertheless, checks and balances are maintained and it will be guaranteed that this equipment will not be used against us.

The United States is concerned at the penetration of Soviet influence into the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. A U.S. base in the region of Sharm ash-Shaykh, both air and naval, could give the United States opportunities to supervise what goes on in the area, to give a guarantee to the countries connected with it, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and to maintain the balance and nonbelligerence between Israel and the Arab countries which have received U.S. weapons.

For a long time now the Cabinet of Israel has avoided saying that it would be better to have Sharm ash-Shaykh without peace than peace without Sharm ash-Shaykh. [paragraph continues]

In other words: the Cabinet of Israel was conceded the whole of Sinai. In the new armament situation which has been created, this concession arouses additional thoughts. On the other hand, a U.S. base in Sharm ash-Shaykh could give an acceptable answer to everything involving U.S. interests in that area and everything involving supervision over the weapons (especially the aircraft) which it has given to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, so that they are not used against Israel. The presence of such a base would even lessen the need, genuine or imaginary, of these countries for additional arms. The Cabinet of Israel would do well to show an initiative in this direction.

We could even go further and propose that the airfield in northern Sinai also be made over into a U.S. base. It is clear that our national "standing upright" and the independence complex of many among us will be repelled at this thought. But anybody who considers the matter rationally and truthfully does not want war with Egypt and Saudi Arabia and even believes in the cabinet's declarations about our being a buffer against the penetration of Soviet influence--it is right for him to use all means of persuasion in this direction. A great deal of money, equipment, manpower and fear will be saved if this idea is implemented. As for the damage to our independence--if Europe recognizes its dependence on the United States--then why should we, who eat and drink at the hands of this superpower, spread a peacock's tail unnecessarily? Is there indeed in our world any country which is entirely independent of a superpower? A base in Sharm ash-Shaykh would be a reply to all those in the administration and Congress who are in favor of arming Egypt and Saudi Arabia for the sake of U.S. interests. From our point of view, U.S. ownership of and U.S. control over the weapons which are becoming more and more sophisticated and dangerous is certainly preferable to their being handed over to countries with whom we have been in confrontation for years.

Of course this matter can only really succeed as part of a renewal of the peace negotiations which have already begun to die and whose death is being speeded up by the cabinet's policy--as exemplified by the statement by the chief of staff that without holding on to Judaea and Samaria and without settlement there Israel has no security. From the chief of staff's remarks it appears that only if we continue to rule by the force of our army and our weapons over more than a million Arabs will we guarantee our existence. There is no doubt that such statements, which give the Palestinian population no evident hope for an expression of its own independent sovereignty under Israeli rule, turns each of the million inhabitants into an actual terrorist (as they put it, a "freedom fighter.") No army and no sophisticated weapons will guarantee us peace, calm and a life of honor and value, when those ruled and deprived of rights try daily to struggle against foreign rule. No oratory by Mr Begin, Ge'ula Kohen or Moshe Shamir will turn us into liberators in the eyes of the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In their eyes we are "conquerors," we are a "foreign ruler" who occupies their land by force of arms and a military government.

Will a cannon in front of every house and artillery in front of every village guarantee peace more than a concession of territories and the granting of freedom to the neighboring nation to conduct its life under our rule? Will settlements established by force of arms and under military discipline add to Israel's peace and security? Anyone who compares the settlements in Qaddum and Shilo to the settlements in Daganya, Revivim and Hadera, 'Arad and Qiryat Gat is a cheap demagog or does not know what he is talking about. Anyone who brackets together all settlements over a period of 100 years, from Petah Tiqwa to Giv'on, is confusing credibility in order to ignore the possibility of an end to the dispute, out of recognition that an end is possible only by way of concessions and recognition of the rights of others.

The cabinet's policy with regard to Judaea and Samaria arouses fears concerning conclusions this cabinet may draw from the aircraft deal between the United States and Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The fear is that under the guise of looking for a way out of the checks and balances which permitted advancing negotiations for a normalization in the area, the hotheads and meglomaniacs among the leaders may declare that Saudi Arabia is a confrontation state, regard the United States as betraying us and give the deathblow to the great hope which washed over the whole area with President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

While the cabinet and its ministers are searching for any trick and any cheat and ruse to establish another settlement in the West Bank, to get hold of and own another dunam, another field and another hill--as though there was no law, no Geneva charter and no decisions by a sovereign state--there is an almost complete paralysis of the brain in what touches on a search for ways to calm down the area, to restrict armaments, to breathe life into the negotiations for peace and to reveal intentions which will put hope into the hearts of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip who are suffering from the despair and frustration which the actions of the cabinet and the statements by the chief of staff create in every heart.

CONTENT OF EGYPTIAN REPLY DISCUSSED, CRITICIZED

TA261459Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 May 78 TA

[Yosef Harif Article]

[Excerpts] "I value your courageous leadership, which contributes to the process of peace," President Carter wrote Prime Minister Menahem Begin, after promising him that the aircraft deal would not harm Israel's security and reiterating the U.S. commitment to Israel's security, while emphasizing the desire for good relations between the two countries based on "mutual ideology." Carter ends his letter: "...and now we must all devote our time to the peace process."

The matter-of-factness with which the prime minister responded to the U.S. President's letter this week, matter-of-factness characterized by a very dry formulation, may perhaps be evidence that "the peace process" which Carter talks about is reaching its end and that compliments ("courageous leadership...") of whatever nature are not enough to contribute more to the progress of peace if "the second party"--i.e. Egypt--does not want it.

Anyone who listened to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's words at the Knesset this week, replying to the motion for the agenda about "the need for a political debate" made by MK Shim'on Peres, could have reached the conclusion that indeed the negotiations with Egypt, if they may be termed negotiations at all, are reaching their end. Dayan stated that "As-Sadat's position at present is that he is not prepared to make a separate peace agreement regarding Egypt and it is very doubtful whether he regards himself as qualified 'to make a peace agreement regarding Judaea and Samaria.'"

On that same occasion, the foreign minister disclosed that last Friday he met with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, and received from him a memorandum which included the summing up of Egypt's remarks about the questions which the prime minister and the foreign minister asked Secretary of State Vance during their visit to Washington to forward to Egypt. Ambassador Lewis's "paper" in fact included a list of questions put to Israel by Egypt rather than substantive replies to the questions Israel had presented.

There is, therefore, a sound basis to assume that Dayan's statement that As-Sadat does not want a separate agreement and does not even want to be a party in the negotiations on the future of Judaea and Samaria, unless Israel promises in advance to withdraw from all the territories and agrees to granting self-determination to the Palestinians, is based on the same talks he held with Ambassador Lewis on Friday.

In fact there was here an Egyptian wising-up: Instead of replying to Israel with a counter-peace plan (during their visit to Washington, Begin and Dayan were told that Egypt was working on its own plan to counter the Israeli plan), As-Sadat replied with...questions to Israel, after the Egyptian draft proposal which was submitted to the United States less than 2 weeks ago was rejected by Washington itself: "It seemed to the United States so inconceivable," Dayan said, "that they returned it to its authors with the explanation that even the United States would not advise Israel to accept such a thing as a basis for 'negotiations'."

What is the nature of "such a thing?"

It appears that the United States has not revealed to Israel the full content of the Egyptian document. Ambassador Dinitz heard from members of the administration that indeed the Egyptians have proposed something, but that it was not acceptable to the United States. On Friday, Ambassador Lewis told Dayan that indeed the first Egyptian "paper" was not agreeable to the United States as a basis for negotiations and that it has therefore advised Cairo to change it. The memorandum which Lewis brought with him to the meeting with the foreign minister in fact included a corrected version of Egypt's position, which was expressed in the form of questions to Israel regarding the future of Judaea and Samaria and how Israel conceives of having the Palestinians cooperate in determining their future or of implementing Resolution 242 concerning the withdrawal from the territories it captured in 1967, etc. In fact, all the questions lead to one goal--granting self-determination to the Palestinians in the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza regions. That is, according to Lewis' memorandum it transpires that the Egyptians have changed the formulation of the draft proposal, because it was not acceptable to the United States, but did not change the content of that draft.

In any case, if the United States had hoped to put Egypt into the process of substantive negotiations with Israel about the practical details of the peace settlement instead of concentrating on a sterile discussion around the declaration of principles, this move, too, originated by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, has also failed.

During the Knesset debate, Dayan disclosed part of the content of the secret contacts held with U.S. mediation--that there was an Egyptian response which was rejected by the United States because "it was so impossible, to use a euphemism," that As-Sadat rejected the idea of the separate agreement and the idea that he would be the negotiator for the future of Judaea and Samaria, and that he conditioned an agreement with Israel on a commitment made in advance to withdraw from all the territories, including the Golan Heights, and to grant the Palestinians the right to establish a Palestinian-Arab state. These things were reflected in the question-memorandum which the U.S. ambassador brought. It seems that anyone who believes there is a future for negotiations would normally refrain from disclosing details in public, as long as the negotiations are still underway.

The conclusion that the chances for the success of the negotiations with Egypt are now almost nil could have been reached also on the basis of one remark made by the foreign minister. [paragraph continues]

He said that the questions raised during the talk he held with the U.S. secretary of state had only one intention: To find out if there is a basis for the practical discussions suggested by Vance instead of the deliberations on the declaration of principles which of necessity forced Egypt to express itself in extremist terms.

A day after Dayan's Knesset speech, the State Department spokesman hurried to deny allegations that Egypt has submitted a new document with proposals. The truth is that Dayan did not say such a thing. Dayan said that he received from the U.S. ambassador in Israel "a detailed memorandum with various elements."

What, then, did the memorandum include?

The author of the memorandum wanted to sum up the latest U.S. contacts with Egypt since Vance, in a discussion with Dayan, proposed regarding Egypt as a partner to the settlement regarding Judaea and Samaria as well, since Washington despaired of bringing Jordan to the negotiating table. Lewis did not present Egypt's stance categorically this time, but rather in the form of "softened" questions. Dayan himself has already hinted that among other things the memorandum deals with questions like: Under what authority would Israel's proposed autonomy be established? Under Israel's authority or as a result of an agreement which would evolve from Egyptian-Israeli negotiations? What will Jordan's status be in that autonomy (for Jordanian law is in effect in Judaea and Samaria) with the abolition of the military government's rule? What will the borders of the autonomous entity be?

Talking to directors of the Foreign Ministry's departments this week, the foreign minister talked about As-Sadat's latest positions and said: We have reached the state where As-Sadat permits himself to say that Israel must return the Gaza Strip as a first stage. What right does he have to that area--merely the fact that he reached Gaza by force after having crossed the international border and we threw him out of there?

If this is As-Sadat's approach--that as a first stage Gaza would be returned to Egypt (as he told a U.S. correspondent in an interview) and the control over Judaea and Samaria would be transferred to Jordan--what is there to talk about with this "partner" at all?

From Dayan's words at the Knesset as well it transpires that in fact As-Sadat rejected Vance's proposal that the declaration of principles be dropped and "details" be dealt with in a practical manner.

All in all, As-Sadat no longer states that Israel must withdraw from all the territories and grant the Palestinians self-determination, but asks--this transpires from Lewis' memorandum with the various elements. Would Israel be willing to realize the principle of 242 which does not recognize control over lands captured by war and which--according to the Egyptian interpretation--necessitates Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? As for the future of the West Bank--would Israel be prepared for "a fair settlement" of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects on the basis of self-determination through talks in which "representatives of the Palestinian people" also participate?

Occasionally members of the U.S. administration (and also MK Shim'on Peres, who talked with Vice President Mondale and with Vance and Brzezinski) say that publicly As-Sadat is stubborn, but that in private Egypt's president would accept border alterations in Judaea and Samaria and that as for Judaea and Samaria he would be prepared to have only "a general formula" without it clearly meaning a Palestinian state.

In one of the interviews Peres even said that "he heard things from As-Sadat." The impression received from Peres' words is that what the prime minister and the foreign minister say is one thing, but that As-Sadat said other things. It has, presumably, already been proved that precision is not necessarily As-Sadat's strongest side. Recently he declared in an interview that he heard from U.S. Secretary of State Vance about an Israeli plan, perhaps with Washington's blessing, to establish a Maronite state in southern Lebanon. In other words, he "quoted" Vance. The next day a letter from Washington was received, confirming that this was untrue, that Vance never said such a thing....

However, what does it really matter what various opposition men heard from Mondale and Brzezinski as to what Egypt's president said or meant, when this government has before it "the Lewis memorandum" with its "various elements." Indeed these are different from what Peres heard in Washington or 'Ezer Weizman heard in Cairo.

There may be a discussion on the nature and the essence of the Israeli peace plan, and perhaps Peres is right in saying that "what Begin is doing is all that the 'Alinement' refrained from doing during all those years." What does this plan do? "He is proposing a map, a 1967 map, he proposes a timetable, for 5 years. If I may say with all due respect, this is an invitation to turn Begin's plan into a Brookings plan...."

There is not the slightest doubt that the autonomy plan includes dangers that perhaps cannot all be forecast. People, including "Alinement" leaders, have already said that the Begin plan conceded too much. If so, how would As-Sadat agree to accept the "Alinement's" plan based on territorial compromise which is far from the 1967 map both in Judaea and Samaria, and in the Sinai? It transpires that at least as far as As-Sadat is concerned the "Alinement's" demands are even more extremist.

Except that one must admit that it is yet unclear if As-Sadat is prepared to make peace at all before the two well-known conditions are fulfilled: A total withdrawal on all three fronts and the establishment of a Palestinian state. That is the question.

The government is trying to discuss it, and so far instead of answers it receives questions. The U.S. administration says that unless Israel replies to the questions it would be difficult to get answers from As-Sadat.

The entire negotiations process that began at the time of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was a wrong bargain. Israel simply did not understand As-Sadat. Dayan confessed: We were told for the first time, and I heard it with my own ears, by the Egyptian representatives as well as by U.S. mediators, that As-Sadat would be prepared--and I am quoting word for word--for detailed negotiations concerning the mutual bilateral subjects regarding the Sinai and would find a very generalized, very inclusive, declaration concerning the other issues sufficient, and that would serve as the declaration of principles, just to pay lip service to an obligation. We have agreed to that.

Well, As-Sadat does not want to pay this lip service, he hopes to force Israel, via the United States, to realize his two conditions.

Dayan disclosed that he had heard from Mk Peres that "it is very doubtful if we should be ready to regard As-Sadat as a partner for a peace agreement."

It seems that this evaluation by Shim'on Peres is far more realistic than some of the arguments he has recently been bringing up by virtue of his job as the head of the opposition. After all, even today the distance between Shim'on Peres and Moshe Dayan is not that great. Basically they are united even today.

AFGHANISTAN

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KARMAL RECEIVES PRC AMBASSADOR

LD292102Y Kabul in English 1900 GMT 29 May 78 LD

[Text] It is reported from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Babrak Karmal, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, received for an introductory meeting in his office this morning His Excellency Huang Ming-ta, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY PERMITS FORMATION OF TRADE UNIONS

BK291552Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 May 78 BK

[Text] The Afghanistan Government has allowed formation of trade unions for the first time in the country. This has been announced by Kabul Radio.

REGULATIONS ON IMPORTED GOODS ISSUED TO MERCHANTS

LD272234Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Ministry of Commerce announcement]

[Summary] As all the compatriots know, one of the areas which received no attention during the rule of the Nadir dynasty was the prices of imported goods and the lack of control in this area. According to Item 18 of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan statement on its revolutionary duties and in order to facilitate the work of the merchants, the Ministry of Commerce has formulated new rules governing the prices of imported goods:

Under the new regulations, wholesale merchants involved with importing are entitled to a net profit of 8 percent after all expenditures on customs duties, transit, transportation and administrative expenses. The retail merchant is entitled to a net profit of 5 percent on the sale of imported goods.

It is the duty of wholesale merchants to keep a regular register on the sale of their goods to retailers so that profiteering can be effectively prevented. All merchants and sellers of imported goods are obliged to put price tags on the goods they sell and to display a separate price list in their shops. All import merchants and sellers of imported goods are obliged to implement the above regulation on the display of price tags by 10 June.

TARAKI ADDRESSES TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

LD272008Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 27 May 78 LD

[Summary] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received more compatriots at the Revolutionary Council headquarters garden at 1000 today. Taraki received representatives from Balkh and tribal notables from the Shamal, Esma'il Khil, Mandowzi, Zadran Hotak, Kharot, Soleyman Khil, Nasher and Popalzai tribes and held talks with them in an atmosphere of cordiality. Taraki congratulated his audience on the success of the revolution of 27 April which toppled the oppressive Daud regime.

Taraki said that with the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which is widely supported by our compatriots, all kinds of discrimination and division have disappeared. "For, today, the government is no longer in the hands of the oppressive and autocratic rulers. Today, sovereignty belongs to the workers, farmers, intellectuals and all the patriotic and noble people of Afghanistan." Taraki added: "It is not important for the people of Afghanistan that a few reactionary and (?oppressive) persons were eliminated. What is important is that the long-suffering people of our backward country have been rescued from the oppression of the savage Nadir dynasty and its last ruler, the demagogue Daud." Taraki assured his audience that Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will spare no effort for the welfare, progress and construction of beloved Afghanistan. Every member of this government--"be he a minister or a governor, a high-level or low-level official in whatever office--is not your ruler but your servant."

Taraki asked his audience to support the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's efforts and to convey his warm greetings to their people when they return to them. Four members of the audience thanked Taraki for his remarks and expressed their readiness for complete cooperation to promote the aims of the revolution.

TARAKI RECEIVES, ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S ENVOYS

LD291748Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received a number of the people's representatives from the capital and the districts of Dand, Spinboldak and Arghandab of Qandahar Province, and notables from Ghazni, Kondoz, Jozjan, Nangarhar, Paktia, Badakhshan, Balkh and Helmand Provinces as well as representatives from various Pushtun and Baluch tribes at the garden of the Revolutionary Council headquarters at 1030 today.

President Taraki addressed this meeting which was attended by Bezamoddin Tahzib, minister of border affairs. President Taraki praised the successful revolution of 27 April and said: "This revolution was a revolution in a real sense, not a (?cosmetic) and phoney revolution in which a brother hands power to his brother or a father to his son. Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister said: Embarking on this revolution was not an easy task. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which I have the honor to lead, has paved the way for a national and popular uprising against the oppression and despotism of the corrupt regime of the Nadiri and Daudi dynasties for 14 years. When the demagogic regime of Daud put the leaders of our party in prison for the crime of patriotism and the love of people, the patriotic and sacrificing heroes who were under our training in the national army embarked like loyal sons on an armed uprising, and we (?witnessed) the ending of the (?repressive) and pharaonic power of the Nadir dynasty and its last autocrat Daud in less than 24 hours.

Taraki added: The new regime "will work for your welfare and will be at your service. Our main aim is to provide bread, clothes and shelter for the hard-working, persecuted and long-suffering people of this country." Taraki asked for the cooperation of the compatriots in the realization of the aims of the revolution and assuredthem that these aims are in agreement with the teachingsof the sacred religion of Islam which will be observed.

Taraki asked his audience to convey his best wishes and those of his colleagues to their people when they return to them. In response, some members of the audience thanked Taraki for his remarks and expressed their support for the revolutionary aims of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Afghanistan.

INDIA

ISI CITES INDO-HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC PROTOCOL

For Delhi ISI coverage of the 25 May protocol of the Third Session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation signed in Budapest, see the Hungarian section of the 30 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

DESAI WARNS CONGRESS-I NOT TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE

BK261635Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 78 BK

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that the government will not tolerate violence from any quarter. Addressing a public meeting at Vapi, about 27 km from Bulsar, Mr Morarji Desai referred to the threat held out by some Congress-I leaders to foment trouble if action is taken against Mrs Gandhi on the basis of the Shah Commission's report. He said the government will have no objection to nonviolent agitation, but if violence is resorted to, it would be put down with a strong hand.

Mr Desai said he would be happy if the opposition parties function with a sense of responsibility.

NEPAL

NEPAL, PRC SIGN BOUNDARY ACCORD IN KATMANDU 28 MAY

BK281512Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 28 May 78 BK

[Text] Nepal and China today signed an agreement on the inspection, repair and reconstruction of the damaged boundary markers and also on drawing up a fresh boundary map on a larger scale.

This was the outcome of the first session of the Nepal-China Boundary Joint Inspection Committee which met in Katmandu from May 17 to 28. The boundary agreement was signed by Tsao Sheng-kung on behalf of China and Mr Biswa Pradhan on behalf of Nepal.

PAKISTAN

ASGHAR KHAN DEMANDS DEFINITE DATE FOR ELECTIONS

BK271457Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 27 May 78 BK

[Text] Rawalpindi, May 27 (AFP)--Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, chief of Istiqlal Party, had demanded a definite date of the general elections and warned the martial law authorities that his party would not accept elections under a national coalition government.

Talking to newsmen last night, Asghar Khan rejected the idea of his joining the coalition government as proposed by Chief Martial Law Administrator General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The Istiqlal Party chief said the martial law authorities should themselves arrange the general elections at a fixed date and then hand over power to elected representatives of the people.

As an alternative, he suggested that instead of holding elections under a national government the martial law authorities could ask the chief justice of the Supreme Court to arrange them. Air Marshal Asghar Khan said he had expelled Sheikh Rafiq Akhtar from the Istiqlal Party after the latter accepted the office of adviser to chief martial law administrator.

Meanwhile, the eight-party Pakistan National Alliance, of which the Istiqlal Party was formerly a member, has reportedly sent its final stand on the proposed national government. A letter from the alliance chief Maulana Mufti Mahmud has recently been delivered to General Zia, but its contents were not disclosed. However, Mufti Mahmud is understood to have put forward certain conditions for the alliance's participation in the national government.

Gen Zia is expected to make an announcement about the coalition government in the next few days.

GOVERNMENT ALLOWS REPUBLICATION OF PRO-BHUTTO PAPER

BK291640Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 May 78 BK

[Excerpts] An agreement was reached in Lahore today between representatives of the federal and Punjab governments and the four-member negotiating team of the Punjab Union of Journalists [PUJ] and the All-Pakistan Newspapers Employers Confederation [APNEC] on the issue of the Lahore daily "MUSAWAT." Under the agreement, the government, after receiving assurances from both the negotiating team of the PUJ and APNEC and the workers of "MUSAWAT", has decided to allow the resumption of publication of the Lahore daily under its present management.

The negotiating team of the PUJ and APNEC and the workers of "MUSAWAT" have agreed to the following: The newspaper will have freedom to project a political program of its own persuasion so long as it does not work against Pakistan's ideology and the country's sovereignty and unity; the newspaper will stick to the universally recognized norms of responsible journalism, namely truthful and factual reporting of news and a balanced and (?sane) approach in writing press comments; the newspaper will not publish false, fabricated or baseless reports or indulge in distortions and will avoid provocative writings and sensationalism which may constitute incitement to defy the law, create commotion and disorder and ridicule and subvert the country's recognized institutions.

The government expects the "MUSAWAT" management, journalists and workers to try to avoid irresponsible reporting.

The government has agreed to release journalists arrested and convicted in connection with agitation on the issue of the Lahore daily "MUSAWAT."

DELHI REPORTS TIKKA KHAN TO BE TRIED BY MILITARY COURT

BK281303Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 May 78 BK

[Text] In Pakistan, Gen Tikka Khan, former army chief and minister of defense, is to be tried by a military court on charges of attempted murder and rioting. He was arrested in Lahore at the end of March after he had led a demonstration to protest against the death sentence given to the former prime minister, Mr Bhutto.

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